

# The Mining Journal

## RAILWAY AND COMMERCIAL GAZETTE

FORMING A COMPLETE RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF ALL PUBLIC COMPANIES.

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## Lectures on Practical Mining in Germany.

CLAUSTRAL MINING SCHOOL NOTES—No. XLVIII.\*

BY J. CLARK JEFFERSON, A.R.S.M., W.H. SC.,

Certified Mining Engineer.

(Formerly Student at the Royal Bergakademie, Clausthal).

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## SECTION III.

For the purpose of firing charges in mines magneto-electric machines have been used. According to Prof. Abel, however, when these machines are used the explosive mixture of the cap must be of such a nature as readily to explode, and that the electric spark will with certainty spring between the two ends of the wires when placed at a distance of 1-16th in. apart. According to experiments with a machine by Marcus, of Vienna, in the mines of the Wolfsegg Fraunthal Company only three shots could with certainty be fired at once. When the number of bore holes was increased there was great liability of one if not more of them missing fire, which from the care with which the experiments were conducted lead to the conclusion either that the machine was not strong enough, or that the varying sensitiveness of mixture in the ignition cap led to the ignition of some of the charges before the others, somewhat confirming the opinion of Prof. Abel.

The greatest objection which has hitherto been made against the mode of firing several charges simultaneously by electricity is that in this case the position of the shots with regard to each other and the working place cannot be placed so advantageously as when each shot is placed successively after the firing of the previous one, and in the most favourable place, which will, of course, depend on the contour of the face after the firing of the previous shots, and the presence of any rents in the rock caused by the first shot. According to experiments in the mines at Ramsbeck the advantage is much more than counterbalanced by the greater effect of the shots when fired simultaneously, and the saving of time. There can, however, be but little doubt that a combination of both methods, on the whole, is the most advantageous—namely, to fire the principal shots in the centre of the working face of a level simultaneously; but the four corner shots, and the others necessary to finish the level to its proper size and shape, might be fired afterwards.

The supposed greater effect of a simultaneous explosion of several is not the only, nor perhaps the greatest, advantage obtained with this method of firing. Suppose, for instance, that a large number of men are engaged in driving forward the face of a drift, or in a shaft or quarry of limited dimensions. As soon as a single shot is fired the whole of the men, from 4 to 30 perhaps in number, must retire to some place of safety until after the shot is fired, when they will most leisurely return to their work, or be lowered again down the shaft. The saving of time by firing the charges simultaneously by electricity is much greater from this cause than is generally supposed.

In the successful and economical carrying out of blasting operations, the proper position of the holes, with regard to the contour of the face and the nature of the rock, is of the first importance. The first operation in connection with blasting is the laying bare, either by blasting itself or by cutting or other means, of some portion of the surface, so as to weaken the resistance of the rock, or to cause the direction of least resistance to be in a given position, either with the object of obtaining a greater mass of mineral with the least expense in cutting and blasting material, or to cause the mass to break off in any desired direction. In metalliferous mines all this will greatly depend on the structure of the lode, of the sides and materials forming the sides; in stratified deposits on the structure of the seam or seams, the relative direction of the planes of cleavage. In metalliferous mines, and in the sinking of shafts and driving of drifts the first attack on the mass will generally be by blasting. With regard to the details respecting sinking we shall return to them in a later number. The position in which the first shot should be placed will depend greatly on the dip of the strata, and if, as is most usual, the planes of least cohesion coincide with those of stratification. In this case, when driving a drift, and the dip is towards the face, the first hole may be drilled horizontally near to or at the top of the level, and afterwards the lower portion of the mass may be removed by one or two or more holes drilled in a nearly vertical direction. According to the amount of dip or cohesion between the planes of stratification will be the depth to which the holes are drilled. When the dip is slight the removal of the upper portion of the level can be carried much further forward in advance of the lower part than when the dip is great. When the dip of the strata is from the face of the level the first shot will be most advantageously placed near to or at the floor of the level, and the rest of the holes successively nearer the top. If the strike of the planes of stratification is in the direction of the level (*i.e.*, at right angles to the face) the shots are, perhaps, best placed in lines parallel to the dip, and the removal of the rock will most advantageously proceed from the centre towards both sides.

In the case of coal seams, or stratified deposits, where the strata are so mid as to permit of the laying bare of one face of mineral by the use of the pick, this is generally effected in the direction of the plane of stratification. In exceptional cases, as in the Königs Mine (coal) in Upper Silesia, it may be found advantageous, even in stratified mines, to effect this with blasting. In most cases, however, it is best to effect this by the aid of the pick.

In coal mines the object is generally to lay bare, besides the face, either the top or bottom side, and the two ends of a long parallel-sided, which has thus four out of the six surfaces free and undetached. The position of the side which is made bare depends on the structure of the seam. If the seam rests upon a thin tender bed of shale, or other layer which is readily cut by the pick, this is, perhaps, the most advantageous position for readily winning the mass. Such a seam of dirt is, perhaps, of most importance in beds under 1 yard in thickness. At other times the dirt parting may be in the middle of the seam, which unless the seam be very thin is also of great advantage to the miner; indeed, at first sight it might appear the most advantageous position of the two, since the work of cutting could be performed in a standing posture, whilst in the former case this must be done in a lying posture. As far as the posture is concerned, however, it appears to be almost immaterial, since a miner who has been accustomed to cutting whilst lying on his side will prefer this to standing, if he has not been accustomed to it. When the cutting is made on the floor, as a rule the coal can be wedged down better than up, favouring a greater production of large coal than is obtained when blasting is resorted to. The seam of coal being generally attached more tenaciously to the floor than the roof. When the seam of parting lies next to the roof this position is the most disadvantageous of all, or it may be even more economical to effect the cutting in the coal itself near the floor, although in this case a very sensible loss of coal is occasioned. In all cases nearly the upper or lower face, as may be, is first laid bare by cutting, and afterwards the two ends, so that the latter may support the coal until the miner has finished. It is usual in most cases, and in this country compulsory, to insert small blocks or cylinders of wood every 6 ft. or so in the holing, to prevent the unexpected fall of the coal whilst the miner is cutting. In addition to these it may be occasionally necessary, owing to the cleavage of the coal, or to cracks produced in it by the weight of the roof, or other causes, to strut the face of the coal by inclined props, to prevent its rolling over, the short vertical props inserted in the undercut. When the holing is made in the middle of the seam sometimes the upper portion of the seam to the depth of the undercut is got first, and in other cases the lower is got first. In this latter case longer props must be inserted between the floor and the under side of the upper coal to prevent its falling unexpectedly on the men whilst breaking and filling up the lower portion of the bed. These props will be best inserted slightly inclined at the upper end of the face towards the coal.

\* Being Notes on a Course of Lectures on Mining, delivered by Herr Bergrath, Dr. Vos Groddeck, Director of the Royal Bergakademie, Clausthal, The Harz, North Germany.

It is often immaterial which is got first, the lower or upper portion of a bed, depending on the momentary convenience or otherwise it gives to the miner (who may one day get the lower part first and the next day the upper part first), on the different qualities of the two portions of the bed, &c. When the roof is bad, and the upper coal pretty strong, it may be best to get the lower portion first; the props can then be kept nearer the face of the coal, the roof does not fall so close to the face, and the lower bed can be got without much trouble on account of dirt falling amongst it. In the district of Liege small portions of the bearing dirt are left to support the coal, in the place of the short props and sprags most usual.

Besides supporting the coal as and whilst it is being undercut it will also be necessary in most cases to support the roof for a short distance behind the face, to keep a road open for the corf, &c., and to prevent the roof falling close to the face, since then only the breadth of the undercut would be available to the miner, and the difficulty of getting the coal greatly increased. On this account one or two rows of props, as the case may require, are carried parallel to the face, and the corf road carried between them, or between the face of the coal and the row nearest the face. Between the roof and the top of the prop a flat piece of wood, technically termed a lid, is inserted, and the prop driven tight into a vertical position with the sledge hammer. If the roof is bad straggling props may require setting in a position most suitable to support any loose part of the roof. To the neglect of proper precautions in setting the props and sprags is to be attributed at least 50 per cent. of the fatal accidents occurring in mines.

We have already in an early number referred to the planes of cleavage in coal, and that advantage is usually taken of this peculiarity of a coal seam to have the back side of the parallel-sided of coal (which has been cut free on four surfaces) to coincide in direction with these planes of cleavage, or least cohesion. The winning of coal in this manner, "on board" as it is technically termed, is sometimes disadvantageous, and especially with a bad roof may lead to the crushing of the coal so much that little besides small coal is obtained.

In metalliferous mines, according to the manner of working, as we shall later see, the mineral is generally laid bare on two faces, or two faces and one end, the hardness of the mass preventing any economical result from attempting to cut the ends or sides, which is effected by blasting. After a portion of the mineral has thus been laid bare, the hole to contain the charge of powder is drilled in the most suitable direction for loosening the mass. In metalliferous mines, or where the rock is comparatively hard, the surface where it is intended to commence drilling the hole is dressed so as to enable the drill to take hold at once and chip the rock without slipping. In coal mines the commencement may be made with the points of the pick. After this the boring commences. Where a hammer is used the blows on the head of the drill are struck lightly until the hole has become so deep as to serve as a sort of a guide for the drill, which is then struck more quickly and heavily, at the same time the drill is slowly rotated between each blow. From 10 to 20 blows should be struck during a single rotation of the drill, otherwise there is a great liability of the formation of corners and projections, which should be immediately effaced by repeating the blow in any position where they are felt, since, if they are allowed to become large, there is great difficulty in their removal. In coal mines the borer itself is generally sufficiently heavy, and the coal is, comparatively speaking, so mild that the boring is most quickly and conveniently effected by hand alone, without the use of a hammer.

When the bore hole in rock is drilled in a downward direction it is usual to fill the bore hole with water, by means of which the dust and powder formed is suspended in the water, and with it spilt out of the hole, so that the chisel strikes the face of the rock instead of falling on a bed of rock dust, giving greater effect. When water is not used, as in coal mines, the fine powder must be scraped out, which occupies time, and the boring is effected less rapidly. When the bore hole is driven upwards in an inclined direction the powder will fall out of itself, and the end of the drill will always act on the clean end of the bore hole. This is, perhaps, one reason of the greater effect obtained by the Italians, who, as we before mentioned, are accustomed to the use of heavy hammers, which they use not by striking downwards, but by swinging from below upwards. The bore holes being thus drilled upwards the powder falls out of itself, the end of the drill always acts on the clean surface of the rock, the time lost in scraping is saved, so that, in spite of the less price at which they take the work, they can, nevertheless, earn more per shift than by the ordinary system of boring. The depth to which the bore hole is carried will depend on the size of the mass to be loosened, the amount of powder to be used, the existence of clefts, &c., in the rock, advantage of which should be always taken; a bore hole, however, which terminates in or near a crack is very unfavourably placed, since the gases developed on explosion may find vent by these instead of loosening the mass.

The amount of powder used is generally fixed by guess-work on the part of the miner, or, at most, in proportion to the depth of the hole, and with some reference to the position of the mass to be loosened with respect to the surrounding rock. The most rational manner is according to a principle enunciated by General Sir J. Burgoyne—to proportion the amount of powder directly to the cubes of the length of the lines of least resistance, the line of least resistance being that in the direction in which the least resistance is offered to the vent of the powder in the air, and for ordinary rock, according to data given, half the cube of the line of least resistance measured in feet expresses the number of ounces of powder suitable for the charge. Thus, for instance, suppose the line of least resistance to measure 4 ft., then the cube of 4 being 64, half of this is 32, so that, according to the above rule, a charge in ordinary rock with a line of least resistance 4 ft. long is 32 ozs., or 2 lbs. of powder, which agrees pretty nearly with ordinary practice. Except where the extra time and labour involved exceed the cost of the extra powder used, the bore hole should not be drilled in the direction of the line of least resistance, for in that case there will be sure to be a waste of powder—part of the powder will be blown out, and the gases will find a partial vent along the bore hole.

One of the best criterions as to whether the proper quantity of powder has been used is the nature of the report when the shot is fired, and the effect of the shot on the mass loosened. When the report is loud and violent it is a pretty sure indication that there has been an excess of powder used, since part of the force spent will have been employed in making the noise; if the mass is greatly shattered, or in coal mines if there is much small coal produced, it is also evident that an excess of powder has been used. On the contrary, when the report is dull without being loud, and the mass has been simply detached and left *in situ* without being shattered, it is a pretty sure evidence that the proper amount of powder has been pretty nearly approximated to. In some cases, as in quarrying limestone, it may be advantageous to use an excess of powder, so as to break the mass into small pieces ready for filling, but in coal mines too much attention cannot well be paid to the proper proportioning of the amount of powder, as a greater amount of small coal is produced thereby where there is no need. On this account in many continental coal and other mines the fixing of the proper amount of powder, as well as the depth and position of the bore hole, is left to the deputy, or a person specially employed for the purpose. Where powder is required to be taken into the mine in cartridges this cannot be adjusted so well as when the powder is poured in loose; this disadvantage, however, can be practically got over by using cartridges of different sizes.

**MECHANICAL STOKERS.**—In order to afford a uniform intermittent supply of fuel to the stoker or to the furnace from the feed hopper, Mr. CHARLES SMITH, of Burnley, proposes to employ a hopper, the bottom or lower part of which is in communication with a cylinder, one side of which is provided with an opening for the exit of fuel. Within the cylinder is a roller caused to rotate slowly by gear-wheels or other driving apparatus. The periphery of the roller is (at intervals apart) recessed, forming receptacles within which coal (as the receptacle comes under the hopper) is received. The continued rotation brings the receptacle over the exit

opening (through the cy-  
pusses under the hopper  
on reaching the exit op-  
pene is to be supplied  
furnace or stoker, or on  
stokers, for the latter the  
down the incline to the  
to the left hand. It will  
entirely enclosed within  
or partly enclosed or emb-  
of the hopper.

## NICKELIFEROUS

The application of nickel to mining has caused increased interest in it, even when the present knowledge, constantly being made in the such a manner as to render it accessible to the metallurgist to attach it to the admirable "Mineralogical D.C.L., of King's College, Nova Scotia, the Mineralogical Society able notes on North America containing nickel, an abstract of the *Mining Journal*, that pyrrhotite or magnetite contains nickel, generally amounting together from most of the nickel of commerce. New Brunswick, and inhibited remarkable differences displayed, which ranges very feeble attraction by the mineral—the most largest percentage of nickel Breton Island, N.S., were one strongly so. The mineral lamellar structure, associated of the whole gave  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. in the operation. A species which attracts both ends with a little cobalt. At pyrrhotite occurs in coarse granular, and attracts by analysis from 0.09% to 0.8% portion of cobalt.

Analyses of some specimens also give some information. How as a mineral contains over a considerable area, is coarsely granular, showing silicious rock, containing times  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. thick through the mineral—the most largest percentage of nickel. The statement as to the active analysis is desirable; 33.91% iron, 53.75% nickel, 1.63%, which show respective compositions including nickel (up to iron, 41.9%; nickel, 22.1%; cobalt). It is remarked that gave but 0.36 percent of nickel from Lowell approaches.

The mispickel from M. associated with gold, which has before been shown to come from a specimen now tested. Next specimen of mispickel a gold district some 50 miles away. The results of the tests showed small amounts that mispickel crystals of brilliant lustre at Newport, N.S., Prof. L. established the analysis of pickel, and the halotrichite of Nova Scotia mineral content and that he failed to find mineral had been formed about 50 grains of the sand about 2 ft. from the outer of the presence of both minerals looked quite free of any sulphur.

Some interesting particles of nickel ore from Texarkana, Arkansas, have been shown to come from a specimen now tested. Next specimen of mispickel a gold district some 50 miles away. The results of the tests showed small amounts that mispickel crystals of brilliant lustre at Newport, N.S., Prof. L. established the analysis of pickel, and the halotrichite of Nova Scotia mineral content and that he failed to find mineral had been formed about 50 grains of the sand about 2 ft. from the outer of the presence of both minerals looked quite free of any sulphur.

DIRECT-ACTING FORCES Texarkana, Arkansas, have been to an improved direct durable construction, that other purposes, as no valves out of order by sand and acting plungers that force supply holes through both swinging or sliding cut-offs communication with the provided with cylinders operated by plunger rods a cylinder through supply direct action of the plunger part and into a connecting communicates. A swinging chamber at the top of the cylinder the alternating action of the plunger to rest on seats of chamber of the cylinders with the ggers, and forces at each stroke into the discharge pipe.

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**CLAUSTHAL MINING SCHOOL NOTES—No. XLVIII.\***  
BY J. CLARK JEFFERSON, A.R.S.M., WH. SC.,  
Certified Mining Engineer.  
(Formerly Student at the Royal Bergakademie, Clausthal).  
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### SECTION III.

For the purpose of firing charges in mines magneto-electric machines have been used. According to Prof. Abel, however, when these machines are used the explosive mixture of the cap must be of such a nature as readily to explode, and that the electric spark will with certainty spring between the two ends of the wires when placed at a distance of 1-16th in. apart. According to experiments with a machine by Marcus, of Vienna, in the mines of the Wolfssegg-Fraunthaler Company only three shots could with certainty be fired at once. When the number of bore holes was increased there was great liability of one if not more of them missing fire, which from the care with which the experiments were conducted lead to the conclusion either that the machine was not strong enough, or that the varying sensitiveness of mixture in the ignition cap led to the ignition of some of the charges before the others, somewhat confirming the opinion of Prof. Abel.

The greatest objection which has hitherto been made against the mode of firing several charges simultaneously by electricity is that in this case the position of the shots with regard to each other and the working place cannot be placed so advantageously as when each shot is placed successively after the firing of the previous one, and in the most favourable place, which will, of course, depend on the contour of the face after the firing of the previous shots, and the presence of any rents in the rock caused by the first shot. According to experiments in the mines at Ramsbeck the advantage is much more than counterbalanced by the greater effect of the shots when fired simultaneously, and the saving of time. There can, however, be but little doubt that a combination of both methods, on the whole, is the most advantageous—namely, to fire the principal shots in the centre of the working face of a level simultaneously with the four corner shots, and the others necessary to finish the level to its proper size and shape, might be fired afterwards.

The supposed greater effect of a simultaneous explosion of several charges is not the only, nor perhaps the greatest, advantage obtained with this method of firing. Suppose, for instance, that a large number of men are engaged in driving forward the face of a drift, or in a shaft or quarry of limited dimensions. As soon as a single shot is fired the whole of the men, from 4 to 30 perhaps in number, must retire to some place of safety until after the shot is fired, when they will most leisurely return to their work, or be lowered again down the shaft. The saving of time by firing the charges simultaneously by electricity is much greater from this cause than is generally supposed.

In the successful and economical carrying out of blasting operations, the proper position of the holes, with regard to the contour of the face and the nature of the rock, is of the first importance. The first operation in connection with blasting is the laying bare, either by blasting itself or by cutting or other means, of some portion of the surface, so as to weaken the resistance of the rock, or to cause the direction of least resistance to be in a given position, either with the object of obtaining a greater mass of mineral with the least expense in cutting and blasting material, or to cause the mass to break off in any desired direction. In metalliferous mines all this will greatly depend on the structure of the lode, of the sides and materials forming the sides; in stratified deposits on the structure of the seam or seams, the relative direction of the planes of cleavage. In metalliferous mines, and in the sinking of shafts and driving of drifts the first attack on the mass will generally be by blasting. With regard to the details respecting sinking we shall return to them in a later number. The position in which the first shot should be placed will depend greatly on the dip of the strata, and if, as is most usual, the planes of least cohesion coincide with those of stratification. In this case, when driving a drift, and the dip is towards the face, the first hole may be drilled horizontally near to or at the top of the level, and afterwards the lower portion of the mass may be removed by one or two or more holes drilled in a nearly vertical direction. According to the amount of dip or cohesion between the planes of stratification will be the depth to which the holes are drilled. When the dip is but slight the removal of the upper portion of the level can be carried much further forward in advance of the lower part than when the dip is great. When the dip of the strata is from the face of the level the first shot will be most advantageously placed near to or at the floor of the level, and the rest of the holes successively nearer the top. If the strike of the planes of stratification is in the direction of the level (*i.e.*, at right angles to the face) the shots are, perhaps, best placed in lines parallel to the dip, and the removal of the rock will most advantageously proceed from the centre towards both sides.

In the case of coal seams, or stratified deposits, where the strata are so mid as to permit of the laying bare of one face of mineral by the use of the pick, this is generally effected in the direction of the plane of stratification. In exceptional cases, as in the Königs Mine (coal) in Upper Silesia, it may be found advantageous, even in stratified mines, to effect this with blasting. In most cases, however, it is best to effect this by the aid of the pick.

In coal mines the object is generally to lay bare, besides the face, either the top or bottom side, and the two ends of a long parallelopiped, which has thus four out of the six surfaces free and undetached. The position of the side which is made bare depends on the structure of the seam. If the seam rests upon a thin tender bed of shale, or other layer which is readily cut by the pick, this is, perhaps, the most advantageous position for readily winning the mass. Such a seam of dirt is, perhaps, of most importance in beds under 1 yard in thickness. At other times the dirt parting may be in the middle of the seam, which unless the seam be very thin is also of great advantage to the miner; indeed, at first sight it might appear the most advantageous position of the two, since the work of cutting could be performed in a standing posture, whilst in the former case this must be done in a lying posture. As far as the posture is concerned, however, it appears to be almost immaterial, since a miner who has been accustomed to cutting whilst lying on his side will prefer this to standing, if he has not been accustomed to it. When the cutting is made on the floor, as a rule the coal can be wedged down better than up, favouring a greater production of large coal than is obtained when blasting is resorted to - the seam of coal being generally attached more tenaciously to the floor than the roof. When the seam of parting lies next to the roof this position is the most disadvantageous of all, or it may be even more economical to effect the cutting in the coal itself near the floor, although in this case a very sensible loss of coal is occasioned. In all cases nearly the upper or lower face, as may be, is first laid bare by cutting, and afterwards the two ends, so that the latter may support the coal until the miner has finished. It is usual in most cases, and in this country compulsory, to insert small blocks or cylinders of wood every 6 ft. or so in the holing, to prevent the unexpected fall of the coal whilst the miner is cutting. In addition to these it may be occasionally necessary, owing to the cleavage of the coal, or to cracks produced in it by the weight of the roof, or other causes, to strut the face of the coal by inclined props, to prevent its rolling over, the short vertical props inserted in the undercut. When the holing is made in the middle of the seam sometimes the upper portion of the seam to the depth of the undercut is got first, and in other cases the lower is got the first. In this latter case longer props must be inserted between the floor and the under side of the upper coal to prevent its falling unexpectedly on the men whilst breaking and filling up the lower portion of the bed. These props will be best in-

<sup>6</sup> Being Notes on a Course of Lectures on Mining, delivered by Herr Bergrath Dr. von Groddeck, Director of the Royal Bergakademie Clausthal. The Harz

It is often immaterial which is got first, the lower or upper portion of a bed, depending on the momentary convenience or otherwise it gives to the miner (who may one day get the lower part first and the next day the upper part first), on the different qualities of the two portions of the bed, &c. When the roof is bad, and the upper coal pretty strong, it may be best to get the lower portion first; the props can then be kept nearer the face of the coal, the roof does not fall so close to the face, and the lower bed can be got without much trouble on account of dirt falling amongst it. In the districts of Liege small portions of the bearing dirt are left to support the coal, in the place of the short props and sprags most usual.

Besides supporting the coal as and whilst it is being undercut it will also be necessary in most cases to support the roof for a short distance behind the face, to keep a road open for the corf, &c., and to prevent the roof falling close to the face, since then only the breadth of the undercut would be available to the miner, and the difficulty of getting the coal greatly increased. On this account one or two rows of props, as the case may require, are carried parallel to the face, and the corf road carried between them, or between the face of the coal and the row nearest the face. Between the roof and the top of the prop a flat piece of wood, technically termed a lid, is inserted, and the prop driven tight into a vertical position with the sledge hammer. If the roof is bad straggling props may require setting in a position most suitable to support any loose part of the roof. To the neglect of proper precautions in setting the props and sprags is to be attributed at least 50 per cent. of the fatal accidents occurring in mines.

We have already in an early number referred to the planes of cleavage in coal, and that advantage is usually taken of this peculiarity of a coal seam to have the back side of the parallelopiped of coal (which has been cut free on four surfaces) to coincide in direction with these planes of cleavage, or least cohesion. The winning of coal in this manner, "on board" as it is technically termed, is sometimes disadvantageous, and especially with a bad roof may lead to the crushing of the coal so much that little besides small coal is obtained.

In metalliferous mines, according to the manner of working, as we shall later see, the mineral is generally laid bare on two faces, or two faces and one end, the hardness of the mass preventing any economical result from attempting to cut the ends or sides, which is effected by blasting. After a portion of the mineral has thus been laid bare, the hole to contain the charge of powder is drilled in the most suitable direction for loosening the mass. In metalliferous mines, or where the rock is comparatively hard, the surface where it is intended to commence drilling the hole is dressed so as to enable the drill to take hold at once and chip the rock without slipping. In coal mines the commencement may be made with the points of the pick. After this the boring commences. Where a hammer is used the blows on the head of the drill are struck lightly until the hole has become so deep as to serve as a sort of a guide for the drill, which is then struck more quickly and heavily, at the same time the drill is slowly rotated between each blow. From 10 to 20 blows should be struck during a single rotation of the drill, otherwise there is a great liability of the formation of corners and

When the bore hole in rock is drilled in a downward direction it is usual to fill the bore hole with water, by means of which the dust and powder formed is suspended in the water, and with it spouted out of the hole, so that the chisel strikes the face of the rock instead of falling on a bed of rock dust, giving greater effect. When water is not used, as in coal mines, the fine powder must be scraped out, which occupies time, and the boring is effected less rapidly. When the bore hole is driven upwards in an inclined direction the powder will fall out of itself, and the end of the drill will always act on the clean end of the bore hole. This is, perhaps, one reason of the greater effect obtained by the Italians, who, as we before mentioned, are accustomed to the use of heavy hammers, which they use not by striking downwards, but by swinging from below upwards. The bore holes being thus drilled upwards the powder falls out of itself, the end of the drill always acts on the clean surface of the rock, the time lost in scraping is saved, so that, in spite of the less price at which they take the work, they can, nevertheless, earn more per shift than by the ordinary system of boring. The depth to which the bore hole is carried will depend on the size of the mass to be loosened, the amount of powder to be used, the existence of clefts, &c., in the rock, advantage of which should always be taken; a bore hole, however, which terminates in or near a crack is very unfavourably placed, since the gases developed on explosion may find vent by these instead of loosening the mass.

The amount of powder used is generally fixed by guess-work on the part of the miner, or, at most, in proportion to the depth of the hole, and with some reference to the position of the mass to be loosened with respect to the surrounding rock. The most rational manner is according to a principle enunciated by General Sir J. Burgoyne—to proportion the amount of powder directly to the cubes of the length of the lines of least resistance, the line of least resistance being that in the direction in which the least resistance is offered to the vent of the powder in the air, and for ordinary rock, according to data given, half the cube of the line of least resistance measured in feet expresses the number of ounces of powder suitable for the charge. Thus, for instance, suppose the line of least resistance to measure 4 ft., then the cube of 4 being 64, half of this is 32, so that, according to the above rule, a charge in ordinary rock with a line of least resistance 4 ft. long is 32 ozs., or 2 lbs. of powder, which agrees pretty nearly with ordinary practice. Except where the extra time and labour involved exceed the cost of the extra powder used, the bore hole should not be drilled in the direction of the line of least resistance, for in that case there will be sure to be

One of the best criterions as to whether the proper quantity of powder has been used is the nature of the report when the shot is fired, and the effect of the shot on the mass loosened. When the report is loud and violent it is a pretty sure indication that there has been an excess of powder used, since part of the force spent will have been employed in making the noise; if the mass is greatly shattered, or in coal mines if there is much small coal produced, it is also evident that an excess of powder has been used. On the contrary, when the report is dull without being loud, and the mass has been simply detached and left *in situ* without being shattered, it is a pretty sure evidence that the proper amount of powder has been pretty nearly approximated. In some cases, as in quarrying limestone, it may be advantageous to use an excess of powder, so as to break the mass into small pieces ready for filling, but in coal mines too much attention cannot well be paid to the proper proportioning of the amount of powder, as a greater amount of small coal is produced thereby where there is no need. On this account in many continental coal and other mines the fixing of the proper amount of powder, as well as the depth and position of the bore hole, is left to the deputy, or a person specially employed for the purpose. Where powder is required to be taken into the mine in cartridges this cannot be adjusted so well as when the powder is poured in loose; this disadvantage, however, can be practically got over by

**MECHANICAL STOKERS.**—In order to afford a uniform intermittent supply of fuel to the stoker or to the furnace from the feed hopper, Mr. CHARLES SMITH, of Burnley, proposes to employ a hopper, the bottom or lower part of which is in communication with a cylinder, one side of which is provided with an opening for the exit of fuel. Within the cylinder is a roller caused to rotate slowly by gear-wheels or other driving apparatus. The periphery of the roller is (at intervals apart) recessed, forming receptacles within which coal (as the receptacle comes under the hopper) is

opening (through the cylinder) by way of which the fuel passes to the furnace or to the mechanical stoker, and so as each re-passes under the hopper it becomes filled with fuel to be discharged on reaching the exit opening. When the flued boiler or double furnace is to be supplied there may be one of such apparatus to a furnace or stoker, or one apparatus may supply both furnaces and stokers, for the latter there will be a double incline placed immediately under the exit opening, so that the fuel may pass one down the incline to the right hand, the other part down the incline to the left hand. It will be obvious that the roller, instead of being entirely enclosed within a cylinder, would answer the same purpose if partly enclosed or embraced by a concave neck or concave bottom of the hopper.

## NICKELIFEROUS MINERALS OF NOVA SCOTIA

The application of nickel to many new uses during the past years has caused increased interest to be taken in all minerals containing it, even when the percentage is insufficient to make it, in our present knowledge, commercially valuable, for the progress constantly being made in the reduction of ores containing several metals in such a manner as to recover the whole of them, leads the chemist and metallurgist to attach importance to researches which some were inclined to pass by unheeded. From the time when he published his admirable "Mineralogy of Nova Scotia," Prof. HENRY DEAN D.C.L., of King's College, Windsor, has been recognised as the leading authority on Nova Scotian mineralogy, and he has now supplied the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland some valuable notes on North American pyrrhotites and other minerals containing nickel, an abstract of which will be acceptable to the readers of the *Mining Journal*. He remarks that it is a well-known fact that pyrrhotite or magnetic iron pyrites frequently, if not invariably contains nickel, generally with cobalt, in various proportions amounting together from traces up to nearly 6 per cent., and that most of the nickel of commerce is derived from this mineral. Upon examination of varieties of pyrrhotite occurring in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and in the United States, he found that they exhibited remarkable differences in the intensity of the magnetism displayed, which ranges from distinct polarity in the mass down to very feeble attraction by a magnet in the finely-powdered state of the mineral—the most feebly magnetic specimens containing the largest percentage of nickel. Four pieces of pyrrhotite from Gaspé Bay, Quebec, N.B., were all polar in action on the magnetic needle, one strongly so. The mineral was massive, but with some lamellar structure, associated with quartz, and an average of analysis of the whole gave  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of oxides of nickel and cobalt, or rather more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of metallic nickel, there being a trilling in the operation. A specimen from Nictaux, Annapolis County, which attracts both ends of the needle, gave 0·10 per cent. of metal with a little cobalt. At Ltete, New Brunswick, it appears that pyrrhotite occurs in considerable quantities; it is massive, fine-granular, and attracts both ends of the needle, and yielded upon analysis from 0·09 to 0·80 per cent. of nickel, with a considerable portion of cobalt.

Analyses of some specimens of pyrrhotite from Lowell, Massachusetts, also gave some interesting results. It was handed to Professor How as a mineral containing 25 to 30 per cent. of nickel; it is found over a considerable area, and is, it is said, being worked. The mass is coarsely granular, showing no crystals; it occurs with a big siliceous rock, containing a little mica, which runs in veins sometimes  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. thick through the ore in hand specimens. The magnetism is so feeble that it is only perceived by actual contact of finely-powdered mineral with a magnet, when an exceedingly small quantity is retained; this property, and the similarity in some characters, and in qualitative composition to Pentlandite, together with the statement as to the amount of nickel present, made a quantitative analysis desirable; and a pure looking piece gave sulphur, 33.91; iron, 53.75; nickel, 2.41; gangue, 8.30; magnesia, and 1.63, which show conclusively the individuality of the mineral, respective compositions being—pyrrhotite: sulphur, 40; iron, including nickel (up to 6.2) = 100; and pentlandite: sulphur, iron, 41.9; nickel, 22.1—100. Here the nickel gave no indication of cobalt. It is remarked that the polar mineral from Cape Breton gave but 0.36 percent. of nickel, whilst the scarcely magnetic specimen from Lowell approaches ten times that amount.

The mispickel from Montague, Halifax County, N.S., frequently associated with gold, which it sometimes holds in visible quantities, has before been shown to contain cobalt, and Prof. How obtained from a specimen now tested, 0.09 per cent. of metallic cobalt. A next specimen of mispickel from Lunenburg County, N.S., was from a gold district some 50 miles south-west of the preceding. Qualitative tests showed small quantities of both nickel and cobalt, and the author mentions that mispickel occurs here in exceedingly well-defined crystals of brilliant lustre. Referring to the matrix of pickeringite at Newport, N.S., Prof. How remarks that when, in 1863, he published the analysis of pickeringites, which resulted in the establishment of a new group of salts and minerals (the pseudo alumina group, Odling, and the halotrichite group of Dana), he showed that Nova Scotia mineral contained some 2000ths of nickel and cobalt, and that he failed to find these metals in the rock from which the mineral had been formed. He has since found that by treating about 50 grains of the slate, taken by himself from the interior about 2 ft. from the outer edge, with aqua regia, distinct evidence of the presence of both metals was obtained from the rock, which looked quite free from metallic bodies, other minerals of metalliferous

looked quite free of any sulphides or other minerals of metalliferous interest. Some interesting particulars are also given with regard to specimens of nickel ore from Tilt Cove, Newfoundland, and which prove to be millerite; it was of pure yellow colour, in six-sided crystals and plates, associated with pearl spar and quartz, and a green mineral in small quantity, probably zaratite; it appeared to be very pure, giving the blow-pipe reactions of sulphur and nickel only; it was found at the same place "in leaves like the purest gold," and in radiated crusts, such as occur at Gap Mine, Pennsylvania, according to a gentleman who said specimens he had seen from Tilt Cove were like what Prof. How showed him from the United States locality named. From the same authority he learned that this specimen was but a small part of the nickelore at Tilt Cove, which is chiefly kupfernickel occurring in pockets with the copper pyrites so largely examined the last few years. Specimens of this kupfernickel, in Prof. How's possession, consist almost entirely of the massive mineral dolomite. About 113 tons of the ore were shipped in 1869 and following year, but what has been done since he does not know. That the minerals of Nova Scotia and the adjoining provinces are worthy the attention of British capitalists has been so frequently asserted in the *Mining Journal* that it is unnecessary to repeat it, but such facts as those given even in this short paper may be taken as additional evidence that the development of the mineral resources

**DIRECT-ACTING FORCE PUMP.**—Messrs. Van Peit and Lee, Texarkana, Arkansas, have patented an invention which has reference to an improved direct-acting force pump of extremely simple durable construction, that is adapted particularly to mining and other purposes, as no valves are used and no parts are liable to get out of order by sand and grit. The invention consists of direct-acting plungers that force the water from the cylinders, having supply holes through bottom channels to a discharge pipe having a swinging or sliding cut-off that alternately establishes and intermits communication with the cylinder and channels. The top part is provided with cylinders and plungers, sliding therein, and being operated by plunger rods and a fulcrum lever. The water enters the cylinder through supply holes at both sides, and is forced by the direct action of the plungers down into the water channels of the port and into a connecting chamber, with which the discharge pipe communicates. A swinging and balanced cut-off is arranged in the connecting chamber at the foot of discharge pipe, and carried by the alternating action of the plungers from one side to the other, so as to rest on seats of chamber. The cut-off produces the connection of the cylinders with the discharge pipe at the descent of the plungers, and forces at each stroke the water through one of the channels into the discharge pipe. The pump is simple and efficient.

# THE West Mostyn Coal & Iron Company (L I M I T E D).

CAPITAL PAID UP { £56,500 Preferred Shares } £31,000 Deferred Shares } TOTAL, £87,560.

Issue of 2000 First Mortgage Debentures, of £20 each, bearing Ten per Cent. Interest, payable Half-yearly, free of Income Tax.

£2 10s per Bond on application; £2 10s, three months after allotment; and the remainder in equal payments of £2 10s. the end of every succeeding three months, thereby extending the payments over two years.

The Bonds will be redeemable by Public Drawings at periods dated below, viz.:—

£5000 1st June, 1886	£5000 1st June, 1888	£5000 1st June, 1890	£5000 1st June, 1892
5000 " 1887	5000 " 1889	5000 " 1891	5000 " 1893

Or the proportion thereof as may be subscribed.

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#### OFFICES.—6, GREAT ST. HELEN'S, LONDON, E.C.

This company was established in 1874 for the purpose of developing the Talacre field, situated at the Point of Ayr, Flintshire, and about 2 miles north-west of the property extends over 2211 acres, and is held for a lease of 60 years at a rent, which merges into the exceptionally low royalty of 1-15th. The company was formed a shaft 15 ft. in diameter has been sunk 140 yards, and two capital seams of coal of excellent quality have been discovered. The coal is well known to be admirably suited for household, steam, gas, lighting, and coking purposes, and there is a large demand in the Liverpool and market.

The position of the coal field is extremely advantageous, the Holyhead section of the London and North Western Railway passing through the property. A creek connecting with the main channel of the River Dee comes past the shafts, by which vessels of large tonnage can be loaded direct from the pit, thus giving an outlet to the colliers both by rail and sea.

The issue of £40,000 in debentures is for the purpose of sinking a second shaft, providing a siding to connect with the North-Western Railway, and completing the pumping facilities on the Dee.

The debentures will be a first mortgage charge upon the entire property of the company, and will take precedence and rank before the existing capital of £87,560.

Summer, without valves or suction, and is readily filled at each downward stroke of the plungers as it is submerged in the water. When the motion of the plunger is stopped the water falls back into the water chambers, and remains cool, without being exposed to the air, as in the valves pumps, in which the water is sustained by the plungers. The pump is not liable to become filled with air or sediment, so as to get out of order, being thereby of special advantage for pumping gritty or impure water.

#### THE DISCOVERER OF GOLD IN AUSTRALIA.

As much honour attaches to the first discovery of gold in Australia, it is not surprising that our old correspondent—Mr. JOHN PHILLIPS—should be anxious, although neither of the Colonial Governments gave him any pecuniary recompence, that his name should be forgotten, and that it should be kept in record that the justice of his claims were recognised even a quarter of a century ago by such authorities as Sir Roderick Murchison, Sir H. E. F. Young, and other equally learned and mineral surveyor at Parkes, in New South Wales, and towards the particulars of a property which he considers to be well worthy the attention of British capitalists; but before mentioning

it may be well to refer to his connection with the early history of Australian gold discovery. It seems to be felt by many in the Australian colonies that in neglecting to remunerate Mr. John Phillips, the gentleman who first discovered gold on this continent, deserved it, and made the necessary apparatus for gold mining, which has been passed over, and the credit to which he is justly entitled has been wholly ignored, while another individual by some fortunate circumstances comes in and carries off the laurels he had

already won.

It will be seen from the evidence which will presently be referred to that Mr. Phillips arrived in Australia in 1847, and from his scientific knowledge was convinced that this was a gold country. He searched for the precious metal and found it, made known his discovery to the Bishop of Adelaide, to whom he had references in England. He wrote to Sir Charles Lemon, member of the Imperial Parliament, enquiring whether the person finding gold would be allowed to extract it from the soil as his own. To this he had a reply, stating that a committee of the House of Commons had recommended that such should be the case. This difficulty being removed, he applied to Sir Henry Young, who was then Governor of New South Wales, and sought of his Excellency a portion of the land with gold as a reward for his discovery and labours; but it appears that the Land Acts in force at the time made no provision for cases of this kind.

Being baffled in South Australia he proceeded to Victoria, where he saw the indications of the presence of gold was greater than in South Australia. He offered his services to the Prince of Port Phillip. He offered his services to explore that colony, risking 12 months of his time on the results, leaving to Mr. Hargrave's generosity and judgment what he might consider an adequate reward, but this gentleman had no desire to encourage such enterprise.

There is evidently no disposition on the part of the colonists to detract from the honour due to the Rev. W. B. Clarke and Mr. Hargrave, or to any others who have assisted in the development of the mineral resources of Australia, but they naturally feel that Mr. Phillips should be more prominently recognised than either, or at least that he should not suffer because he made his discovery before the colonists.

In 1848 he established himself in Melbourne, and calculated a sum of £1000 to be required to start a small mine, which he had

calculated to be sufficient to support him for a year. He had

not long remained in Melbourne when he was summoned to a meeting of the miners' association, at which he was present, and he was asked to speak on the subject of the miners' rights. He did so, and

the miners' association voted him £1000 to be used for the purpose of starting a small mine.

He had now £1000, and he had a small mine, but he had

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Mr. John Higson, the company's engineer, reports that this additional capital will be sufficient to complete all the works, and ensure an output of 1000 tons per day.

A profit of 1s. 6d. per ton upon this quantity will pay the 10 per cent. interest upon the debentures, leaving a balance sufficient to pay 16 per cent. dividend upon both preferred and deferred shares.

The large outlay already incurred in proving and developing this valuable property is a substantial security to the debenture holders, and the directors have the greatest confidences in recommending the debentures as a sound and legitimate investment.

The debentures are payable over two years, but applicants desiring to pay up at once in full may do so with the consent of the board.

The shareholders have already subscribed for a large number of the debentures.

Forms of Application may be had of the bankers, the solicitors, the secretary, of Mr. H. RUSSELL EVANS, Dock-street, Newport, Mon., M. F. FRANCIS, Corn Exchange Chambers, Chester, and Mr. L. COOPER, 56, Windmill-street, Manchester.

dear Sir Charles, your's very truly, Rod. I. Murchison." This letter having reached Sir Charles Hotham during his last illness, its effect upon Mr. Phillips was lost, but it leaves no doubt as to Sir Roderick's opinion in the matter, and is certainly a very important piece of evidence in favour of Mr. Phillips's claims. It is now remarked that although Mr. Phillips has some employment, it is of so limited a character that his usefulness is comparatively lost to the country, and it is suggested that it would be for the interests of Australia if the Minister for Mines of New South Wales were to avail himself of his abilities, and give him an extensive commission, such as that which was once given to Mr. Hargrave, as it might be of incalculable benefit to this colony, as the development of its mineral wealth may be regarded as only in its infancy.

With regard to the auriferous property referred to, Mr. Phillips has sent ample details for the information of those disposed to take an interest in the matter; but it would be difficult to explain its position with regard to the leads without reference to the diagrams, which, however, can be seen at the *Mining Journal* office, together with the sketch of first gold washing apparatus used in Australia, and which Mr. Phillips designed and erected in 1848, or just 29 years ago.

#### MINING EXPLORATIONS IN INDIA.

Mr. WALTER NESS, mining engineer, who is engaged by the Government at the Warora coal field, Central India, delivered an address in the Geological Museum at Dudley, to the members of the South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire Institute of Mining Engineers. The chair was occupied by Mr. HENRY JOHNSON, and there were a large number of members present. Mr. JOHNSON alluded with pride to the fact that Mr. Ness, who had been so successful in India, was a member of their Institute before he left England.—Mr. NESS graphically described his outward journey, giving descriptions of Southampton, Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Port Said, the Suez Canal, town of Suez, Aden, Bombay, and on to Warora. Mr. Ness said he found the work of exploration proceeding, and described with humour the difficulties he had to teach the natives to use the colliers' pick; they had no idea of it, and preferred using a long iron bar to do the holing—a most wasteful manner of using manual labour. He also had considerable difficulty in teaching natives how to wind an engine; the empty skips with which he practised them were pulled over the pulley scores of times. The moment a native found anything wrong he abandoned all hope of direction, and allowed things to take their own course. Mr. Ness gave an idea as to the capabilities of the Warora coal fields by stating that there were by computation 500,000,000 tons of coal within 14 miles. In consequence of the timidity of the natives he had adopted, after training them as pikemen in the ordinary way of getting coal, the long wall system, although the coal was only about an 11-ft. seam. They were able to raise 100 tons a day, and it took three or four natives to do the work of one English collier: 100 tons per day might not seem much, but the effect was wonderful. Previously the natives were listless creatures, who were satisfied with a hand full of rice per day. Now they were busy people, earning honest money by honest toil, decently clad, instead of being in indecent rags, living in better homes, and taking better food. (Hear, hear, and applause.) There was, as a matter of course, considerable fear among the natives as to going down the pit, but, providentially, in the sinking they lost not a finger, and the men took kindly to the work. In fact, he had difficulty in directing their rashness, but found after a little trouble that they were amenable to law and order. He had trained them as blacksmiths and carpenters, although they were perpetually recurring to their ancient modes of work, which were exceedingly wasteful of strength. About 50 miles from them was a hill, with a rich vein of ironstone, and he calculated that it contained 3,000,000 tons of rich ore; there were similar hills in the neighbourhood. Mr. Ness hoped the time would soon come when the seam would be worked, and iron made in India, which would not interfere with the trade of England, for the more money made in India the better for the home country. India would want 70,000 miles of railway, and he would tell them that when there was a network of railways the question of famine would be settled. There were but 400 miles now in India between plenty and scarcity, but there was the difficulty of transit, and the poor died in thousands. He had seen over and over again food rotting for want of carriage, and he was glad to know that the Government had ordered 200 locomotives and 3000 carriages. They were about to place 11,500 tons of rails; this would clear out some stock, and ultimately do good to trade. Mr. Ness exhibited a large number of fossils, pieces of coal, coke, and specimens of ironstone and iron. He concluded a very interesting address by expressing a hope that the prosperity of England and its great dependency would go hand in hand, as he believed they would.

In answer to questions, Mr. NESS said the coal was not "faulty." Gas had not been seen by him. All the coal raised was used for locomotive purposes. The temperature was as high as 170 in the sun and 115 in the shade; but the climate, since the drainage connected with the sinking of the shafts, was dry and not unpleasant. Calcutta, with its lower temperature, was not so pleasant, because of the moisture of the atmosphere. Their coal was valued at 12s. per ton, but much of this was due to deadweight, which would be reduced when the men could raise more coal by becoming skilled labourers.

Mr. JOHNSON proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Ness, and said they wanted no further proof of his success in India than the very

advice address they had heard that evening. He was proud to see Mr. Ness in that room once more. He would carry with him the best wishes of those present. (Applause).—Mr. JOHN FIELD seconded the motion, and said he was glad that a member of their institute had been chosen for the very arduous and delicate task of opening up a valuable coal field and instructing the natives in the art of coal winning.—Mr. JOHN HUGHES supported the motion, which was carried unanimously amid applause.—Mr. NESS briefly replied, and in a humorous manner promised the institute a hearty welcome if they utilised one of their annual excursions by visiting Warora.—The members then inspected the fossils, and various plans prepared by a native. These latter excited general admiration. Mr. Ness presented the fossils and specimens to the institute. The former comprised parts of fresh-water turtle, Nappae shells, corals, and fishes. The latter, specimens of coal, coke, and iron.

#### RECENT COPPER EXTRACTING PROCESSES.

A number of processes for the extraction of copper from its ores by the wet way were referred to in an interesting paper read before the Royal Society of New South Wales, by Mr. S. L. BENUSAN, who remarked that in all these processes the aim has been to extract the metal by processes requiring the smallest outlay in plant, &c., coupled with the minimum expenditure in chemicals and labour. Mr. Bensusan seeks to impress upon mineral explorers that methods are available for giving a value to mining property without preliminary large outlay; but it is not intended to imply that after inexpensive proof of value has been obtained, economy and profit may not better attained by the introduction of labour-saving appliances even at great outlay, though it is urged that the large outlay can be deferred until its justification is definitely and conclusively demonstrated. Referring to the sulphuric acid process in use at the Kapunda, he remarks that they successfully treat an ore with only  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 1 per cent. of copper. But the conditions there are peculiarly favourable, inasmuch as the mineral operated on consists of a vast heap of many thousands of tons of tailings which have already passed through the dressing machine; consisting principally of oxides and carbonates, it requires no preliminary desulphurisation, while the sulphuric acid is made on the spot from iron pyrites, which exists in great abundance on the property. The ore is digested in the acid until all the copper is dissolved out, several successive portions being treated in the same liquor up to the point of saturation; it is then allowed to settle, and run off clear into a large vessel containing scrap iron, which throws down the copper as cement copper. He does not pretend that at many places in New South Wales conditions precisely the same as at Kapunda can be found, but he maintains that there are many places where a little modification of the process may be made with profitable results—where large deposits of copper pyrites exist containing 2 to 3 per cent. of copper, the pyrites itself serving in many cases for providing its own sulphuric acid for the subsequent treatment of the oxidised or desulphurised ores.

According to the Snowden or Lime process, for the success of which the ore should be chiefly sulphurites and limestone, should be obtainable on the ground; the mineral containing copper pyrites is crushed mixed with a small proportion (rarely exceeding 5 per cent.) of burnt lime; the mass is then shaped into bricks roasted at a low heat for a short time, when double decomposition takes place, the sulphide of copper becoming a sulphate, and the lime being converted into sulphide of calcium. The bricks are rapidly crushed, and fall into water, wherein the soluble sulphate is washed out, and subsequently precipitated with hydrogen sulphide. The Hunt and Douglas, Claudet's, and some other processes well known to the readers of the Journal, are described and in conclusion, he remarks that the study of the subject has convinced him that where the extraction of copper is the sole consideration, and where the quality is pretty good, there is no process of reduction more economical and more suitable than the old fashioned smelting process. But where there are difficulties as to fuel or flux, and in new countries where smelting can only be carried on at a disadvantage, he appears to consider the wet process might be advantageously used. The paper contains much valuable information, and will doubtless be widely read.

#### ELECTRO-MAGNETIC ENGINES.

Some improvements in electro-magnetic engines, which appear well calculated to secure the maximum of power, as the surfaces of the magnet faces and armatures can be increased almost indefinitely, have been invented by Mr. J. H. LOVELL, of Sunderland. These improvements consist in a disc or wheel attached to a shaft, one end of which rests in a bearing fixed on a plate. The other end of the shaft is connected to a crank fixed on a shaft working in bearings. The disc or wheel fixed on the first shaft named is constructed of soft iron, solid or in plates, or of soft iron and other metals; or the disc or wheel may have armatures arranged in sections on or near its periphery, and to or near its centre; around this disc or wheel are arranged electro-magnets at suitable distances, and in number as required by the power desired to be exerted on the crank pin before described.

To the electro-magnets any suitable battery is applied, which when so applied to the magnets, they then attract the face or periphery of the disc or wheel nearest to one or more of such magnets consecutively; and to effect this continuous consecutive arrangement of attraction from the magnet or magnets, a commutator formed of a dividing plate connected to the crank-axe or shaft rotated, and is worked by a spring or other suitable means from the crank-axe. By these several means an oscillating or undulating rotary action is given to the disc or wheel, and rotary motion to the crank shaft for the purpose of delivering motive-power from such crank shaft. For some purposes he arranges several discs or wheels around the one attached to the crank for additional power, all of which are worked as hereinbefore described, but to apply their force on the central disc or wheel. For some purposes he employs a non-conducting material between the disc or wheel and the magnets, and between the magnets themselves, for the purpose of preventing impact of the several parts.

For some purposes he employs a wheel and pinion in lieu of the crank to give motion to the shaft from which motive-power is to be taken, as described; and for some purposes he fixes the disc or wheel on the crank pin of a shaft rotating in two or more bearings; and when he constructs the periphery of such disc or wheel of soft iron, entire or in sections, or of other suitable metals, he arranges the electro-magnets around the same. By this arrangement the disc or wheel is drawn round from the crank pin for its centre as an eccentric, and rotary motion is given to such crank shaft by the electro-magnet's battery and commutator acting as hereinbefore described. As the improvements are capable of various modifications without departing from the principle thereof, he does not restrict himself to the precise form or dimensions of the several parts, nor to the number of discs or wheels to be employed nor to the placing of the magnets around the discs or wheels, as the same may be placed anywhere on the discs or wheels or around the same, nor to the precise arrangement of the several parts thereof.

STEAM-ENGINES.—The invention of Messrs. JURISCH and LEWIS, of Widnes, consists in forcing the exhaust steam of non-condensing steam-engines back into the boiler or boilers, thereby utilising as nearly as possible the full amount of the latent heat contained in the steam. To effect this purpose they employ another boiler or boilers, generating steam of very much higher pressure than that used for the engine. With this higher pressure of steam they operate a suitably arranged steam pump or pumps, pumping the exhaust steam directly from the steam cylinders or through an intermediate reservoir (or they may by preference employ a suitable injector) into the boiler or boilers supplying the engine, the exhaust steam from the steam pump or injector being also forced into the lower pressure or engine boiler. By these means they convert the exhaust steam not only from the steam engine proper, but also from the steam pump or injector, into steam of the pressure of the engine

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boiler, thereby requiring to evaporate a smaller quantity of water than has hitherto been necessary to produce a certain result, consequently effecting a saving of fuel.

## Greetings of Public Companies.

### CHICAGO SILVER MINING COMPANY.

The ordinary general meeting of shareholders was held at the offices of the company, Finch-lane, yesterday.

General DAVIDSON in the chair.

Mr. J. E. BAGGS (the secretary) read the notice convening the meeting. The report and accounts were taken as read.

The bullion sold during the year realised \$3,981. 14s. 9d., against 107,312. 18s. 11d. for the previous year. The accounts up to Aug. 31, received by the last mail, show that the liabilities amounted to 11,034. 14s.; the assets, consisting of ore, stores, and supplies on hand, &c., were valued at 3408. 19s. 3d., leaving a balance of 7638. 14s. 9d., against the company.

The following is Mr. Godbe's last advice (Sept. 22) respecting the Flavilla:—"The mine continues to improve gradually as work progresses. Concerning a new drift started a few days since, the foreman writes—'It is now cut about 10 ft., the ore is about 1 ft. wide on one side, and 3 ft. on the other, it is first-class ore.' Work on the mine I am happy to say will continue." The accounts received of the condition of the mine from other quarters are also very encouraging; the directors, therefore, believe that if a sufficient sum is raised by debentures to pay off the debts, the fortunes of the company would be speedily re-established. The prospects of the success of the company's suit for the re-possession of part of the Queen of the Hills Mine are regarded favourably by their legal advisers in Utah. The case is expected to be heard during the present month.

The directors regret to say that of late they have had reason to feel much dissatisfied with the management in Utah, and fear that even at this critical juncture the affairs of the company do not receive Mr. Godbe's undivided attention. The whole matter is now receiving the careful consideration of the board. The directors to retire in accordance with the Articles of Association, is Colonel the Hon. J. C. Stanley, who, his colleagues regret to say, does not offer himself for re-election. The directors do not wish to make any nomination for the vacancy, preferring to leave the choice to the body of the shareholders. Mr. Meggy, the auditor, also retires in accordance with the Articles of Association, and offers himself for re-election. The remuneration of the auditor will also have to be fixed by the meeting.

In answer to recent inquiries, the directors take the present opportunity of stating that if a sufficient sum is not raised upon the debentures to free the properties from the attachments, the amounts paid as deposits for debentures will be promptly returned.

The CHAIRMAN said, at the previous meeting, held a few days ago, the affairs of the company were fully discussed. Since that time the directors had sent the shareholders all the information which they were in power to send in the report of the directors and other circulars, except that during the past few days a telegram had been received from the representatives of the company in Utah. After the meeting a short time since was held the directors thought it necessary to telegraph to their representative in Utah to ask what terms could be made with the creditors, and to this the following reply, dated the 21st inst., had been received:—"Walker Brothers, Wells Fargo's ultimatum: Three-fourths cash, remainder bills, two, four, six months. Interest, 10 per cent, per annum. Personal property, which includes furnaces, will sell, irredeemably, on Nov. 1. 9000/- required prior thereto. Outsiders waiting to purchase. Transfers arranged. Letter." This telegram, as the shareholders might imagine, had rather taken the directors by surprise. He did not know what influence was at work in Utah behind the scenes, but it seemed to be very extraordinary that such a telegram should be sent. The effect of it was that unless they found the 9000/- the furnaces would go away from the company, and if the furnaces were lost the mines would be of no use. It had appeared more extraordinary, because from the accounts received up to the latest date—Sept. 7—the debts were only stated to amount to 8000/- whereas they were now told that to pay a portion of their debts only 9000/- would be required, and that parties were waiting to purchase the furnaces. He might state that the amount of money originally supposed to be required was between 5000/- and 6000/-, and that Mr. Godbe had assured them on several occasions that that amount would be quite sufficient to effect a compromise with their creditors. Nearly 6000/- had been subscribed towards the debentures, but whether, under the circumstances detailed in the telegram, they would be able to make a compromise he could not say. The directors had telegraphed to Mr. Dunne, of the firm of Richardson, Chadburn, and Company (who were large shareholders in the company), to proceed from San Francisco to the mine to see to matters, and until they received a telegram from that gentleman they could not say positively how the company would stand. They could only wait to see what compromise Mr. Dunne would be able to make with the creditors of the company. A cablegram was also received on Oct. 18, stating—"Flavilla improving; 40 ft. run on level or drift since last report. The present average width of drift at present working is 2 ft. Extracting 1 ton per man daily. Immediate adjustment fully warranted, and would save heavy costs. Cablegrams received." This was the only information the directors had to give. In telegraphing to Mr. Dunne to proceed to Salt Lake City to prevent the collapse of the company's property, the directors had given him full instructions to act on their behalf.

Mr. WALKER asked when the message was sent to Mr. Dunne?—The CHAIRMAN replied that it was on the 24th inst., but Mr. Dunne had to proceed from California to Utah.

Mr. WALKER asked whether he was to take it that the statement of Mr. Godbe as to the indebtedness of the company was entirely false? At all events, he had stated that it was 6000/-, and it had now reached 9000/- The CHAIRMAN said the directors were not in a position to say whether the statement was false or true. Mr. Godbe might possibly have meant that 6000/- would effect a compromise, not that it would pay off the whole debt and relieve the company from its liabilities.

In reply to another question, the Chairman said nearly 6000/- had been applied for.

Mr. WALKER asked how the directors understand the phrase "transfer arranged" in the telegram from Judge Dunn?—The CHAIRMAN, in reply, said he took it that an arrangement had been made for the transfer of the Flavilla property from Mr. Godbe to Mr. Dunne. Mr. Godbe had hitherto held the Flavilla in his own name on behalf of the company.

Mr. MARNHAM could not understand how the directors could have given such power to the manager, that he was really able to do what he liked with the company's property. Nine months ago he felt certain that the power given to Mr. Godbe would ultimately result in the company's ruin, and he was afraid that his anticipations were only too well grounded.

A SHAREHOLDER thought it was no good to blame the directors. They had, doubtless, done the best they could for the company. What they had to do was to see how the company could be extricated from its difficulties. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. HYNDMAN (a director) said, without in any way wishing to offend Mr. Godbe, it should be borne in mind that the real cause of the difficulty was that the staple article that the mines produced had fallen nearly 50 per cent. in value in two months, bullion had fallen from \$80 to little over \$40, so that however good a manager they might have that fact must tell against them. Then there had been a break in the mine. These had been the primary causes of disaster to the company. There were no doubt discrepancies between the statements made by Mr. Godbe and the actual facts, but he did not see that the directors could help that.

A SHAREHOLDER asked why Mr. Godbe had returned bullion when he had to borrow money at 18 per cent?—Mr. HYNDMAN replied that the bullion was sold as it was raised. But the amount of the advances on bullion did not represent the whole indebtedness of the company, far from it. Nobody had attacked Mr. Godbe more than he had himself, but in dealing with such a question facts must be borne in mind.

Mr. MARNHAM asked why the directors did not curtail the power of the manager when they found that the remittances from the mine ceased?—The CHAIRMAN said when the remittances ceased the mischief had been done, because the bullion contracts had already been made.

The Hon. J. C. STANLEY (a director) said the manager had to buy ore at high rates to fulfil the contracts, and then the price of bullion went down rapidly. No doubt there had been very bad judgement in the matter.

The CHAIRMAN, in reply to a question as to what security the shareholders would have that any funds they might provide would go to release the company from its indebtedness, said it was proposed that any money sent to Utah should be entrusted to some member of the board, or son or representative of the company in whom the shareholders would have perfect confidence.

Mr. RICHARDSON remarked that it was quite a mistake to say that it was understood at the previous meeting that the indebtedness of the company was only 6000/. What was really stated was that a telegram had been received from Mr. Godbe saying that that sum would pay off the pressing claims.

Mr. ANDREWES asked whether it was a fact that Mr. Godbe in his correspondence with the directors had said that he had made himself personally liable for some of the debts of the company?—Mr. RICHARDSON replied that Mr. Godbe had to some extent backed the bills of the company.

Mr. WALKER asked if the debts had been gradually increasing for months past, and whether Mr. Godbe had informed the board that they were running up to such an amount?—The CHAIRMAN replied that the debts had been accumulating for four or five months, and that the directors were only aware of the amount of indebtedness as the accounts came in.

Mr. ANDREWES said he was informed by the clerk of the company in their office in Salt Lake City in July that there were debts in existence to the extent of \$25,000, that ore was being purchased at ruinous prices, and that unless some great improvement (such as had taken place at Flavilla) the company would be ruined.

Mr. MAITLAND observed that the great cause of the unfavourable position of the company arose from the fact that they were not getting much ore from the Flavilla, and to the considerable fall in the prices of silver and lead. He understood, however, that the tide had turned, and that the price of silver was improving, as led was improving in this country.

Mr. RICHARDSON, replying to a question, said Mr. Godbe held the Flavilla in trust for the company. It was quite the usual thing to put property held by an English company in America into the name of a citizen of the United States—as Mr. Godbe was. Even the large railway companies had their property held in

trust by trustees in America. It was understood, however, that the Flavilla had now been transferred to Mr. Dunne.

In the course of some further discussion it was stated that if all the money raised by the issue of the debentures were not required, the surplus would be returned to the shareholder. Mr. Godbe had no claim against the company of which the shareholders were not aware, but the company had claims against Mr. Godbe. The manager had executed a deed stating that he held the Flavilla in trust for the company.

Ultimately it was proposed by Mr. MARNHAM that Mr. Hyndman should be requested to proceed to Utah, with power to represent the company, and to deal with its creditors.—This proposition having been adopted, Mr. HYNDMAN expressed his willingness to undertake the duty requested of him.—On the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. RICHARDSON, the report of the directors and the accounts were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN said as the retiring director, the Hon. J. C. Stanley, did not seek re-election, it would be for the shareholders to suggest some gentlemen to fill the vacancy. After a short conversation, Mr. Stanley consented to retain his seat until Mr. Hyndman, in whose ability he had the fullest confidence, should return from his mission to America.

Mr. J. Meggy, the auditor, was reappointed.

The meeting was then constituted SPECIAL, and the CHAIRMAN proposed that the following resolution, passed at the special general meeting held on Oct. 2, should be confirmed:—"That the directors be authorised to borrow for the purposes of the company any sum or sums of money not exceeding £2,000, and that the money so borrowed may be raised by debentures or otherwise, and for such time, and on such terms of repayment as the directors may think fit, and at a rate of interest not exceeding 15 per cent, per annum, payable half-yearly, and that any sum so borrowed may also be secured by a mortgage or other charge upon the company's property and profits, or otherwise as the directors may think desirable."—Colonel BIRD seconded the proposition, which was carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. WALKER, a vote of thanks was passed to the Chairman, and the proceedings then terminated.

COMB MARTIN.—At a general meeting of adventurers held on Wednesday (Mr. Frederick Thomas in the chair) the accounts showed a debit balance of 212. 9s. 2d. The agents in their report stated that about 25 fms. east of the 28 end the back of the lode has been opened at surface and found to contain good gossan and lead, such as have not been seen in any other part of the mine, and a pare of men have been placed to drive the 15 under this point, and the 28 will also be driven up to it; and from the fact of the former workers having taken away a quantity of ground at the 28 and 15 are advanced. The agents also advise the opening upon the back of the lodes westward, and at their junction near a cross-course, at which point the agents are strongly of opinion the celebrated old Comb Martin lode, which formerly proved so rich to the west of the present workings, will be met with. The meeting considered that these important and promising features should be developed as rapidly as possible, and made a call of 1s. 6d. per share for the purpose of meeting the expense of the additional work.

[For remainder of Meetings see to-day's Journal.]

### ECHOES FROM THE MINING MARKET.

Owing to the steady appearance of tin in London tin shares have again been in brisk demand. Although some further advances have taken place in quotations, the course of the market will much depend upon the action taken by the Cornish smelters. If the standards are raised it would probably become excited. If, on the other hand, no change is made prices must fall away.

The meeting of the Wheal Owles adventurers at the latter end of last week showed that hopeful views are entertained by many practical men as to the immediate future of the tin trade. Taking the Board of Trade Returns for the past nine months as a clue to the price, it was urged that an early advance might reasonably be expected. What is really wanted, however, is a very substantial improvement in general trade, as with only a slight addition to demand the home market is not in a sufficiently elastic condition to meet the additional imports caused by enhanced prices here. When trade is brisk throughout the world it takes heavily increased imports to exercise a depressing influence, but whilst the demand only about equals the supply a few additional arrivals make a languid and weak market. It is thought by many London merchants that trade cannot show any marked improvement until the Eastern War has been brought to a termination, and as no appreciable advantage—contrary to the expectation of many—has been derived by the tin market from the state of war, in our opinion the necessary element for a continued rise in tin is as yet wanting. It is to a general improvement in trade that we shall look for a solid advance in the value of the metal, and until the former condition is apparent we shall expect an uncertain market.

Lead shares have been very fairly supported, and there are not wanting signs of increased activity amongst investors. Van, from about 30, have advanced to 32%, buyers. We understand that the next sampling will be 550 tons of lead ore, after which it is expected the monthly samplings will reach 600 tons. Rockham shares are a trifle weaker at the closing quotation, but as the mine is being brought into much better position an advance may be reasonably anticipated. Roman Gravels are weak at 7% to 8%, and North Laxey at 11s. to 13s., although there is a very good report to hand from the latter mine. Some demand has existed for South Roman Gravels; the quotation, however, remains at 3% to 5%. The prices of neither Van Consols nor Glyn have altered since the meeting. It was rather expected that, owing to the official statements then made, that a better demand would set in for the shares. This, however, has not been realised, and the quotation for both—if the amalgamation scheme is to be carried the shares are of equal value—remains at 3% to 5%.

In copper shares Parys Mountain are weaker, at 9s. to 11s. The report of this week is one of the best yet received. West Tolpuddle has given a dividend of 30s. per share (76s.), out of a profit of 144L on two months' working. The shares are 73 to 75 ex div.

At the Crebor meeting a call of 2s. per share was made. The accounts showed a loss of 239L on the quarter's working, and a balance of liabilities over assets of 124L. As the cash balance against the mine was 172s., and cost sheet of 50L, had to be met before the ore bill of this month's sale would be in hand, and costs amounting to 50L will have to be paid before the next sale of ore can take place the call was necessary: 55s. is owing to merchants. The costs are charged to the sth of last month. Copper sale the 18th inst. In future the samplings will take place every two months.

The only important feature that has occurred in foreign mine shares has been the advance of Richmond to 6s. 7. These shares now stand above the price they were at when judgment was given against the company in the Eureka claim. The appeal is still pending.

JAMES H. CROFTS.

### FOREIGN MINES.

ST. JOHN DEL REY.—Telegram from Morro Velho, dated Rio de Janeiro, Oct. 23: Profit for the month of September, 8000.

DON PEDRO.—Capt. Vivian, Sept. 24: Considering the force available for breaking, our output is fair. The quality, so far for the month is rather poor; however, a change for the better may take place at any moment. All works are progressing favourably both at the mines and the surface. Mine captain's letter dated Sept. 24: The ore raised has been derived from the No. 6 shoot in the back of the new level, from No. 9 shoot, adit level, and a little from the stopes opened on a pillar of this shoot at Alice's west. The No. 6 shoot in the eastern stope has been communicated to the new level. As this stope is in old workings and exhausted, it is suspended, and being filled and blocked tight with debris and old timber. No. 9 Shoot: Little has been done in the stope opened out on a pillar of this shoot at Alice's, as it has been suspended pro tem for want of force. Western Stopes: The branches in this stope in the adit level have very changeable, but averaging moderate quality ore. We have made an opening on the south side of this stope 14 fms. from the horizon of the adit level to commence stoping down hill on these branches. The branches in the north side opening have become very small and irregular. The ground in the No. 1 eastern stope is somewhat crushed, the old workings beneath not having been properly filled. The branches have been very changeable, but have yielded ordinary quality ore. A stope called No. 3 has been opened on the north side of No. 1 stope. This produces moderate quality ore, and we intend to carry on this stope to ultimately use it as an incline for the transit of ore from the bottom of the mine and the convenience of sending down timber for stoping and other purposes, as may be required. The wharf ropes will work through this incline if required.—Prospective and Running Work: The cross-cut from Alice's to Symon's shaft has been communicated and secured. Several repairs have also been made in the plat. Symon's shaft has been repaired to the bottom of Alice's level. Alice's level is still undergoing repairs. The repairing of the No. 1 side level is progressing rapidly. The cross-cut from the western stope, No. 8 shoot, towards Symon's shaft has been cleared from debris, and the sets renewed where required.

The Incline from the Adit Level to Symon's Shaft: This incline is newly opened out where it was crushed, and is now in good order from the adit level to the cross-cut named above. Commencement has been made to open out some stopes on the north ground of No. 8 shoot above the adit level, which will be carried down hill, and prove the whole of this stope standing in that direction. We have completed the repairing of the No. 2 pass, adit level.—Dawson's Pumping Machinery: The matching rod to angle bob on Alice's has been changed, and a shorter one connected to take up the rods in the shaft. Drainage: The water drawn from the mine has been much the same as for some time past. In consequence of the surface water falling off, we have not been able to keep the water in the fork, therefore no correct measurement can be made. The permanent pumping machinery works in connection with the above is progressing as rapidly as our forces will permit.

Telegram from Rio, dated Oct. 23: Produce cleaned up (first division of October), 19,400 oits.

Telegram from Rio, dated Oct. 25: New incline tramroad finished.

RICHMOND CONSOLIDATED.—R. Rickard, Oct. 1: Since my last we have struck ore in the 200 level, and have drifted on its course about 20 ft.; we have about 40 ft. to drift to communicate with the Eureka Consolidated workings on the Compromise line, where there is a fine body of ore standing on our side of the line; as soon as this communication is made we shall sink to hole the rise in back of the 400 level. The ore body in back of the 400 is still improving; we have crossed it at one place, and find its width 50 ft., and very good ore. No. 2 rise is up 50 ft., with very good ore all the distance. The 400 main drift is still in low-grade ore and limestone. The 600 main west drift is looking very promising; within the last 20 ft. drifting we have struck several pockets of discoloured lime and iron ore. The 600 south drift is being driven on the quartzite to come under the ore in the 400; it is very soft ground, and easily worked. Good progress is

being made with the winze in the bottom of the 800, on the fissure. The 900 drift is within 10 or 12 ft. of the fissure; we expect to make the communication with the winze some time this month. There is no change in any other part than last, and the grade of ore has been higher. Everything both in the mine and the furnaces is looking favourable for a very good run.

—Telegram from the mine at Eureka, Nevada, 1st.—Week's run, \$55,000, 750 tons of ore (two furnaces); week's produce of refinery, \$40,000, bullion amounting to about 2000.

FLAGSTAFF (Silver).—The directors have received a remittance from the mine in Utah, as follows:—The very gratifying result of work for the month of September is—Output 1335 tons, gross yield \$44,071; estimated cost, \$23,064 (equal to 4612. 18s. sterling).

BLUE TENT (Tin).—D. T. Huges, Sept. 29: We are getting our new reservoirs dug around the whole. The culverts are 108 ft. long, and built strong and solid all through. All the other work is also making fair headway. We are giving the Blue Tent canal a thorough cleaning and overhauling all over.

HUNTER CONSOLIDATED.—G. P. Armstrong, Sept. 22: Furnace: The furnace will be here—Mines: These are looking uncommonly well, especially in this mine continues to look well, there are 200 or 300 tons of ore in the least surprised if 1000 tons of ore were extracted from this chimney in 60 days. The average assay from this chimney of 120 tons was 115 ozs. silver, small chimney intersected with the large they have not; when we are taking out much, we are taking out ore by means of a windlass, but it is very slow work. We are easily taken out with horse power. We shall be able to give you good news.

—Dated San Francisco, Sept. 30: The furnace started Friday the 28th and is running all right, or as well as can be expected for starting, as it is likely to remain longer than he expected, as he got too near the furnace when they were charging it for the first time, and a slight explosion took place, keeping them bathed in sweet oil and flour. His moustache, eyebrows, and pectoral hair were burned off, and his clothes were badly burned, but none of his looking well; from Crown Point we are taking from 8 to 12 tons per day, and are running all right, or as well as can be expected for starting, as it is likely to remain longer than he expected, as he got too near the furnace when they were charging it for the first time, and a slight explosion took place, keeping them bathed in sweet oil and flour. His moustache, eyebrows, and pectoral hair were burned off, and his clothes were badly burned, but none of his looking well; from Crown Point we are taking from 8 to 12 tons per day, and are running all right, or as well as can be expected for starting, as it is likely to remain longer than he expected, as he got too near the furnace when they were charging it for the first time, and a slight explosion took place, keeping them bathed in sweet oil and flour. His moustache, eyebrows, and pectoral hair were burned off, and his clothes were badly burned, but none of his looking well; from Crown Point we are taking from 8 to 12 tons per day, and are running all right, or as well as can be expected for starting, as it is likely to remain longer than he expected, as he got too near the furnace when they were charging it for the first time, and a slight explosion took place, keeping them bathed in sweet oil and flour. His moustache, eyebrows, and pectoral hair were burned off, and his clothes were badly burned, but none of his looking well; from Crown Point we are taking from 8 to 12 tons per day, and are running all right, or as well as can be expected for starting, as it is likely to remain longer than he expected, as he got too near the furnace when they were charging it for the first time, and a slight explosion took place, keeping them bathed in sweet oil and flour. His moustache, eyebrows, and pectoral hair were burned off, and his clothes were badly burned, but none of his looking well; from Crown Point we are taking from 8 to 12 tons per day, and are running all right, or as well as can be expected for starting, as it is likely to remain longer than he expected, as he got too near the furnace when they were charging it for the first time, and a slight explosion took place, keeping them bathed in sweet oil and flour. His moustache, eyebrows, and pectoral hair were burned off, and his clothes were badly burned, but none of his looking well; from Crown Point we are taking from 8 to 12 tons per day, and are running all right, or as well as can be expected for starting, as it is likely to remain longer than he expected, as he got too near the furnace when they were charging it for the first time, and a slight explosion took place, keeping them bathed in sweet oil and flour. His moustache, eyebrows, and pectoral hair were burned off, and his clothes were badly burned, but none of his looking well; from Crown Point we are taking from 8 to 12 tons per day, and are running all right, or as well as can be expected for starting, as it is likely







WEDNESDAY, OCT. 24.—Van and Great Laxey shares have been in demand, and close firm, at advanced prices. Quotations for the day are as follows:—Carn Brea, 36 to 38; Dolcoath, 34 to 36; East Van, 3 to 3½; Glenroy Lead, 18s. to 20s.; Great Laxey, 20½ to 21½; Ladywell, 17s. 6d. to 22s. 6d.; Leadhills, 4½ to 5½; Grogwinion, 3½ to 3¾; North Laxey, 11s. to 13s.; Parys Mountain, 11s. to 13s.; Penstruthal, 5s. to 7s.; Roman Gravels, 7½ to 8½; Rookhope Lead, 20s. to 22s. 6d.; South Condurrow, 8 to 8½; South Cwymyntith, 3 to 3½; Tankerville, 5 to 5½; Tincroft, 14 to 15; Van, 31 to 33; West Chiverton, 13½ to 14½; West Tolgs, 7 to 7½; Agar, 3½ to 4; Grenville, 3 to 3½; Wye Nalley, 2½ to 3; Richmond, 6 to 7½; Eberhardt, 4½ to 5½; Flagstaff, 2 to 2½; Frontino, 3 to 3½; Javall, 6s. to 8s.; New Quebrada, 1½ to 2.

THURSDAY, OCT. 25.—Market for tin shares very active at advanced prices. Great Laxey and Van's firm at quotations. Carn Brea, 40 to 42½ (rise of 4s.); Dolcoath, 38 to 38 (rise of 2s.); Tincroft, 15 to 16 (rise of 1s.); Van, 31½ to 33½ (rise of 1s.); Great Laxey, 20½ to 21½; Glenroy, 17s. 6d. to 20s.; North Laxey, 11s. to 13s.; Rookhope, 20s. to 22s. 6d.; South Roman Gravels, 10s. to 13s.; Leadhills, 4½ to 5½; Roman Gravels, 7½ to 8½; Tankerville, 5 to 5½; Grogwinion, 3 to 3½; Parys Mountain, 11s. to 13s.; West Tolgs, 7 to 7½; West Chiverton, 13 to 14; East Van, 3 to 3½; Penstruthal, 5s. to 7s.; Wye Valley, 2½ to 3; West Wye Valley, 3 to 3½; South Cwymyntith, 3 to 3½; Richmond, 6 to 6½; Eberhardt, 4½ to 5½; Javall, 6s. to 8s.

FRIDAY, OCT. 26.—Market firm for tin shares. Vans advanced to 33½, buyers. Carn Brea, 40 to 42½; Dolcoath, 33 to 38; East Van, 3 to 3½; Glenroy Lead, 18s. to 20s.; Grogwinion, 3 to 3½; Great Laxey, 20½ to 21½; North Laxey, 11s. to 13s.; Parys Mountain, 10s. to 12s.; Rookhope Lead, 20s. to 22s. 6d.; Roman Gravels, 8 to 8½; South Roman Gravels, 10s. to 13s.; Van, 31½ to 33½; West Tolgs, 7 to 7½ (ex div. 30s.); Grenville, 3 to 3½; West Wye Valley, 3 to 3½; Leadhills, 4½ to 5½.

\* \* \* With this week's Journal a SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET is given, which contains: Original Correspondence; Notes from the West of England; Rock Boring Machinery—No. X. (J. Darlington); the Barometer, and Colliery Explosions; Colliery Accidents, and Mr. Macdonald, M.P.; Colliery Explosions, and their Ventilation; the Metal Trade—Foreign Competition; Mining in South Australia (A. Thomas); the Central Swedish Iron Company; the Richmond Mine; Peat Fuel (T. King); Bismuth Bronze; the Coal Land Mining Company, Cardiganshire (C. Kneebone); the China Clay Trade (J. F. Pagen); Epitome of Mines and Metals—No. I. (J. H. James); Great Holway Mine; Mining in Montgomeryshire; the Cambrian Mines, Cardiganshire (R. Tredinnick); the Gossas Deposits at the Cambrian Mines (Thomas Glanville); South Condurrow, and Wheal Grenville; South Condurrow Mine, "C. W." and South Condurrow; Wheal Grenville Mine, Wye Valley Mine, and Mechanical Boilers; Glenroy Mine (J. Barkell); New Brook Wood Copper Mine, Buckfastleigh—Foreign Mining and Metallurgy—Registration of New Companies—The Scotch Mining Share Market—Meetings of the Providencia and New Rosario, Van Consols and Glyn, Medlyn Moor, Wheal Crebor, Mellanear, North Treasby, Wheal Owles, and Cathedral Mining Companies, &c.

### TO THE METAL TRADE.

FOR COPPER, TIN, LEAD, &c., apply to—  
MESSRS. PELLY, BOYLE, AND CO.,  
SWORN METAL BROKERS,  
ALLHALLOWS CHAMBERS, LOMBARD STREET, LONDON.  
(ESTABLISHED 1849.)

### The Mining Market: Prices of Metals, Ores, &c.

METAL MARKET—LONDON, OCT. 29, 1877.

IRON.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	TIN.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Pig, 3mbs, f.o.b., Clyde.	2 12 2½		English, ingot, f.o.b.	73 0 0	74 0 0
" Scotch, all No. 1 ...	2 14 0 - 3 10 0		" refined	74 0 0 -	55 0 0
Bars, Welsh, Wales	5 0 - 5 10 0		Australian	65 10 0 -	
" in London	5 0 - 5 17 6		Banca	70 0 0 -	71 0 0
" Stafford,	5 0 - 8 0 0		Straits	65 10 0 -	68 15 0
" in Tyne of Tees ...	5 0 - 5 15 0		COPPER.		
Rails, Welsh, at works.	9 2 8 - 9 12 6		Tough cake and ingot.	70 0 0 -	72 0 0
Railway chairs	5 0 - 5 2 6		Best selected	72 0 0 -	73 0 0
" spikes	- - -		Sheets and sheathing	75 0 0 -	76 0 0
Sheets, Staff., in London	8 15 0 - 9 0 0		Flat Bottoms	79 0 0 -	
Plates, ship., in London	7 0 0 - 7 5 0		Wallaroo	76 10 0 -	77 0 0
Hoops, Staff.	7 10 0 - 8 0 0		Burns, or P.C.C.	74 0 0 -	74 10 0
Nail rods, Staff., in Lon.	7 0 0 - -		Other brands	72 0 0 -	73 0 0
STEEL.			Chill bars, g.o.b., nom.	65 10 0 -	66 0 0
English, spring, ..... 16	0 0 - 20 0		COUPPER.		
" east ..... 35	0 0 - 45 0		Tough cake and ingot.	70 0 0 -	72 0 0
Swedish, keg, ..... 16	0 0 -		Best selected	72 0 0 -	73 0 0
" fag. ham, ..... 17	0 0 -		Sheets and sheathing	75 0 0 -	76 0 0
LEAD.			Flat Bottoms	79 0 0 -	
English, pig, common	20 0 0 - 20 2 6		Wallaroo	76 10 0 -	77 0 0
" L.B. nom.	20 5 0 -		Burns, or P.C.C.	74 0 0 -	74 10 0
" W.B. .... 20 10 0 -		Other brands	72 0 0 -	73 0 0	
" sheet and bar, 21	0 0 - 21 5 0		Chill bars, g.o.b., nom.	65 10 0 -	66 0 0
" pipe ..... 21	10 0 -		COPPER.		
" red ..... 22	5 0 - 22 10 0		Tough cake and ingot.	70 0 0 -	72 0 0
" white ..... 27	5 0 - 28 0 0		Best selected	72 0 0 -	73 0 0
" painted shot ..... 24	10 0 -		Sheets and sheathing	75 0 0 -	76 0 0
Spanish ..... 19 15 0 -		Yel. met. sheath. & sheets.	5½ -	7½	
QUICKSILVER.			Nails composition	84 0 -	94 0
Flasks of 75 lbs., ware.	7 15 0 -		TIN-PLATES.*	per box.	
SPELTER.			Charcoal, 1st quality	1 0 0 -	1 1 0
Silesian or Rhenish .....	19 5 0 - 19 7 6		2nd quality	0 19 6 -	1 0 0
English, Swansea .....	21 0 0 -		Coke, 1st quality	0 18 0 -	
Sheet zinc .....	22 10 0 - 24 0 0		2nd quality	0 17 6 -	-

\* At the works, 18s. to 1s. 6d. per box less for ordinary; 10s. per ton less for Canada; IX ds. per box more than IC quoted above, and add ds. for each X. Tene-plates 2s. per box below tin-plates of similar brands.

REMARKS.—The situation of the Metal Trade is less favourable, if anything, than before, and we have again to report very unsatisfactory markets; the demand still continues much below the average, and many houses are doing next to nothing, and great difficulty is everywhere experienced in obtaining fresh business. The hopeful feeling respecting tin which animated some few operators a week or two back seems to be giving place to one of mistrust, and it is not improbable that those who were led away by the impulse of the moment will eventually sustain serious losses. The prospect of diminished demand and lower prices is surely enough to cause holders to be fearful of the consequences of allowing the present opportunity to escape without using every effort to realise as much of their stocks as possible, and unless they do avail themselves all they can of the existing demand they will certainly have no excuse to offer for their irreparable neglect. It is most inopportune, and will undoubtedly terminate unsuccessfully, and for this obvious reason—that consumers are not able to follow up an advance, neither would they if they could, for the legitimate trade of the country forbids it, and speculation, therefore, should not be allowed in any way to interfere with its reorganisation and development, for we are not sufficiently advanced yet to admit of higher rates, or to be inconvenienced and troubled with occasional interruptions from outsiders, and as it is necessary that further time must elapse ere trade can be restored to a sound and healthy state, speculation on any extensive scale would greatly hinder instead of assist the progress of our market. Speculation, therefore, at such a time is much to be deplored. The demand must flow naturally, otherwise there will be no permanence and stability in prices, and the general improvement will only be so much longer deferred. Many difficulties have yet to be overcome before a revival can take place, and there are no signs at present of any improvement of a really favourable and promising character.

The home consumption and the shipping trade are both very dull. The war has every appearance of dragging on through the winter. France is in a very unsettled and revolutionary state, and the future course of the money market is hazardous. The Times remarks that those who are now congratulating themselves that the worst is passed in the money market are to some extent pleasing their imagination with a fool's paradise, and we fear that those who indulge in the pleasing anticipation of an immediate permanent upward tendency in the metal market are also in a fool's paradise; but although they will probably find it an expensive diversion, yet it is a poor consolation for the consumer and shipper, who are suffering so much from loss of trade, to have their regular business injured and deranged at such a critical and distressing period. We trust that speculation will be kept within moderate bounds, and that holders will freely meet the requirements of the market. Premature speculation not only unsettles the market, but may ruin them for a very considerable time.

COPPER.—The position of copper is getting worse. For several years past the trade in this metal has become considerably larger, both as regards increased production and increased consumption. Unfortunately, however, just now the former still goes on, whilst the consumption has lately become very much reduced. The natural consequence of this state of affairs will be an accumulation of stocks, which, indeed, begins to show itself already, the quantities of copper in stock in Europe and abroad for Europe, having been on Sept. 1 38,952 tons; Oct. 1, 40,523 tons; and Oct. 15, 41,811 tons; and no doubt will go on increasing. Apart from this it is well known that the stocks of English raw copper in the hands of some smelters are very large (being estimated at several thousand tons), and there were in the warehouses in Swansea on Oct. 1 unsold ores and regulus, not Chilian (and therefore not included in the public trade statistics), equal to about 2200 tons of fine copper. The great question, therefore, is—Will there be any decrease in the supplies or not? We think not, for there is not only no prospect of decrease, but, on the contrary, every chance of increase in the supplies. Taking the production of Chile to remain stationary, and the present prices as paying the Chilian producers, owing to the decline in the rate of exchange in Chile (present rate 41½d. per dollar, against 45½d. per dollar), they still get, according to last advices, \$15·30 per quintal

for bars, against about \$14 in 1870, in which year they sent us just as much copper as they ever shipped. The supplies from Spain, Newfoundland, Cape, &c., will show an increase this year equal to about 10,000 tons of pure copper, and according to well-informed persons will show next year a further increase of from 5000 to 7000 tons. The production of the United States of America has very much increased of late years, and Australia, too, has been increasing, although it's calculated that the production of some of the mines there will fall off next year; this, however, will be balanced by the increase of the make of the fine German sorts, so that taking everything into consideration, we see a large increase in the production and supply of copper. Respecting the consumption, it is, as we stated before, very slow just now; but supposing it should even get as large as it has ever been, it will barely be sufficient to keep under supplies. What, then, will help copper? Only very much lower prices, which would undoubtedly tend to reduce the production and at the same time to stimulate consumption and absorb the surplus quantities. The market must, therefore, continue downwards for some time. This is the general impression of everybody well acquainted with the state of the copper trade; and indeed, it has manifested itself in various ways this week—firstly, importers of Chile bars have given way, and have sold Lots and Urmeneta at 65s. 15s. English smelters offer tough at 71d., and best at 72d., delivered in Birmingham. Holders of Wallaroo (no doubt anticipating a public sale in November) are now anxious to sell, and would accept about 77d. Manufactured 4x4 has been sold at 75d. Yellow metal brazier, 6d.

IRON.—There is very little change to report in this market; the demand continues extremely limited, and makers find great difficulty in keeping their mills employed. The reduced prices do not appear to produce any effect at present, and it seems exceedingly doubtful when a favourable turn will take place. The Belgian houses are still about 5s. to 7s. 6d. per ton below our own, and it is utterly impossible to move upwards while they are undercutting us to this extent; the only question is whether we shall be able to maintain our present position. As they have hitherto taken the lead in reducing prices they may possibly be the first to advance them, but we think there is no probability of their doing so yet. Belgian bars are offering for delivery in London at 5s. 7d. to 5s. 7½d. per ton, whereas English merchant bars are about 5s. 15d. per ton. Present prices are no doubt low in comparison to recent years, but they were 10s. to 20s. per ton lower in some kinds in 1852, and then we had no such competition as now exists in Belgium and America. The season is now too far advanced for any favourable impression to be made upon the prices of iron, and we must wait for another year before any good can be done. By next spring something better may offer, but it is doubtful whether there will be much of a move before then. India will probably have recovered by that time, and it is hoped that France will have established a solid form of government, and that the Russian invasion of Turkey may be abandoned, and the Eastern Question in a fair way of settlement. If these things terminate satisfactorily there would soon be renewed confidence, and an increased amount of business transacted, but it is the state of uncertainty that prevents anything being done, and in the meantime stocks accumulate, and sellers are obliged to submit to sacrifices to enable them to sell. There is scarcely anything more depressing than to find business declining upon a falling market, for that is a double difficulty which sellers have to encounter, and a terrible strain upon them. Many of our ironmasters declare that they are selling below cost of production, and they are merely doing it in the hope of business improving by-and-by, and many believe that the Belgian trade is in every respect as unremunerative as our own, but that Government subsidies are made, which enables the works to be carried on at a loss; if this is so, it is rather hard upon our ironmasters to have to bear up against a Government power.

The reduced prices of iron will sooner or later have the effect of increasing the consumption, and that will in due course bring a favourable opportunity for realising higher prices. Consumers may fairly begin to buy for stock, which should be gradually increased as times goes on that when a rise does take place consumers will be well provided against the advance, and have something to make a little money upon. Buyers have always to guard against paying too much, but there is no great danger in beginning to buy at present rates. We do not consider there is any immediate hurry to act, as there is no appearance of any upward tendency, but buyers should look round and see what they are likely to require, and make their arrangement in good time, so as to be ready to make a contract at an opportune moment. Scotch pigs are now quoted 52s. 2½d.

#### SHIPPING.

Week ending Oct. 21, 1877. Tons 10,278  
Week ending Oct. 20, 1877. 8,956

Decrease 1,322  
Total decrease for 1877 2,902

Imports of Middlesborough pig-iron into Grangemouth:—

Week ending Oct. 29, 1877. Tons 4,655  
Week ending Oct. 21, 1877. 4,179

Increase 476  
Total increase for 1877 59,722

#### FURNACES.

In blast Oct. 14, 1877. 118  
In blast Oct. 13, 1877. 87

TIN.—This metal is under the dominion of speculators, and it is, therefore, impossible to say what the immediate future of the market may be, for when once speculation is brought to bear upon an article it may be carried to any absurd limit. The rise already appears to us beyond what circumstances justify, but speculators seldom give much heed to anything beyond the amount of profit they can secure, and totally disregard the ultimate effect upon legitimate trade. Buyers must, therefore, be on the alert, for the bulk of the stock is in comparatively few hands, and if holders choose to exercise the power they possess they would perhaps experience no great difficulty in effecting a further temporary rise; at the same time we firmly believe that it would be the means of bringing about a more rapid decline, and in that case we should not be surprised to see the price recede below that from which it started; but if holders are fortunate enough to be able to produce statistics that will show even a slight falling off up to the end of the year it will be quite sufficient to help them in carrying prices higher than those at present quoted. There is an abundance of tin in stock, and sooner or later it will have to be sold, but just now holders seem rather disinclined to part with it unless they can obtain full prices, and the consequence is that the available quantity is not so very great, but supposing any severe pressure to sell suddenly overtook the market it would then go back with as much celerity as it advanced, for a speculative rise without legitimate demand to support it is exceedingly dangerous, and liable to collapse at any moment.

LEAD.—This metal keeps steady. The recent arrival of parcels of pigs from New York looks as if there was not much sale for lead in that market at the present time.

TIN-PLATES are in better demand for America, and prices for coke are mostly firmer.

QUICKSILVER.—Importers have not changed their price from 7d. 15s., at which moderate sales have been effected; second hand parcels have been sold slightly under the official quotation, but there has not been any large quantity on offer. The San Francisco market is still unsettled, but the price remains steady, at 45½c.; and there appears to be no probability of further re-shipment from China. On the contrary, 2873 flasks were shipped from San Francisco to Hong Kong during September. Receipts for the past month, 6053 flasks, against 5103 in 1866.

THE IRON TRADE.—(Griffiths's Weekly Report).—Friday Evening.—Scotch pigs have again receded, the price this afternoon at the close of the market being 52s. 1½d. buyers, fully 6d. less than the price last Friday. We quote makers' No. 1 Iron, Gartshillie, 60s. 6d.; Coltness, 60s. 6d.; Langton, 52s. 6d.; Summerlee, 59s. 6d.; Monkland, 54s. 6d., f.o.b. Glasgow; Glenarrow, 59s.; Eglington, 54s. 6d., f.o.b. Ardrosson; Shotis, 54s. 6d. f.o.b. Leith; Kennil, 55s. 6d., f.o.b. Bo'ness. Since Quarter-day there has been a moderately steady business. The most noticeable feature in our market is the demand for sheet iron, which has kept up, and, perhaps, increased since Quarter-day. A large order for sheets given out for consumption in the North of Europe was distributed between three or four firms, to facilitate the earlier execution. These orders have given some impetus to the demand for Staffordshire sheet iron, which may remain in force for some little time to come. The demand for galvanised sheets is also tolerably active. Nail rods are in moderate request for shipment. We have also considerable business doing in marked Staffordshire bars. Second-class Staffordshire iron is quiet. Welsh bars generally supersede this kind of iron in our market. We have no business to report in rails. The contract advertised by the Government is not yet closed. The Indian Government require iron sleepers for 175 miles of railway, which will consume a very large quantity of wrought, cast-iron, or steel. Tenders to be sent as usual to Mr. Gerald Talbot before the 1st of November. The demand for boiler plates continues flat. There is no change of importance to record in pig iron this week. Barrow, Glasgow, and Birmingham markets remain the same; Middlesborough continues weak. Metals remain unchanged, with a want of animation all round.

Messrs. FRY, JAMES, and CO.—COPPER: A continuance of the want of life

in our last has prevailed during the past fortnight, resulting in the last few days in rather lower prices having been accepted for Chilian and for English, Australian, having been very generally withdrawn from the market, has maintained quotations.—IRON is uniformly dull.—TIN: The advance established early in the month is fully maintained, and considerable business has been done.—LEAD is steady in value, but quiet in demand.—SPELTER is being very little dealt in.—TIN-PLATES selling fairly at very low rates.

Messrs. BROOKER, DORE, and CO.—SCOTCH PIGS: The market has been a declining one; warrants having receded during the month about 1s. 6d. per ton.

FINISHED IRON: Since the reduction



[OCT. 27, 1877]

## NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Much inconvenience having arisen in consequence of several of the Numbers during the past year being out of print, we recommend that the Journal should be £1. on receipt; it then forms an accumulating useful work of reference."

**COPPER STANDARD.**—"T. H. M." (Amhurst-road).—The two standards referred to have no connection with each other—one is for Cornish ores of 6½ per cent., the other for a better class of ore, and for 9 per cent. produce. "T. H. M." should remember that 1 ton of fine copper is contained in little more than 11 tons of 9 per cent. ore, whilst 15 tons of 6½ per cent. ore will contain scarcely more than 1 ton of fine copper.

**MINING FOR SPAIN.**—"J. J. T." (Aguilas).—The subscription for Spain is 39 frs., or 14. 10s. 4d. if the amount be remitted to London, or paid to us in London annually; but owing to the heavy cost of collecting in Spain, as compared with other European countries, we are compelled to draw for 50 frs. when the amount is collected at the subscriber's residence.

**ANGLO-BRAZILIAN.**—The address enquired for, in last week's Journal, by "E. T. S." (Bideford), is—Mr. Robert Wendeborn, Passagem, Mariana, Minas Geraes, Brazil.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE—REDUCTION OF POSTAGE ON THE "MINING JOURNAL".**—In consequence of the new POSTAL CONVENTION, which came into operation on July 1, the postage of the *Mining Journal* to many countries will be reduced to one fourth. Henceforth the subscription will be 17. 10s. 4d. per annum (39 frs.), postage included, for the following countries. The amount will, if desired, be collected at the subscriber's residence at the end of each year. The subscription continues until countermanded:—Austria, France, Belgium, Denmark (including Iceland and the Faroe Islands), Egypt, Germany, Gibraltar, Greece, Heligoland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal (including Madeira and the Azores), Roumania, Russia, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, United States, Malta, Turkey, Morocco, Tunis, and the Canary Islands. Spain 17. 10s. (50 frs.)

**Received.**—"H. S." (San Francisco, Oct. 4)—"Shareholder" (Wheat Crebor)—"Constant Reader" (Newcastle)—"Omega" (Ramsgate)—"M. N."—"J. W. S."—"Miner" (Deinagate)—"B. R."—"Shareholder" (Leeds)—"S. S." (Antrim)—"H. M."—"Shareholder" (Wheal Grenville): The letter can only appear with the writer's name appended—"Shareholder" (Flagstaff): The information is given in this week's Journal.

**THE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET.**—We have received occasional complaints, and of late a good many, that the Journal is delivered by country booksellers without the Supplement. Subscribers would oblige us by demanding that the paper should be handed to them complete, as every Journal is accompanied by the Supplement when it leaves our office, and the fault of omission must rest with the country bookseller or their London agent.

**SHARE DEALING.**—We never interfere in the sale or purchase of shares; neither do we recommend any particular mine for investment or speculation, or broker through whom business should be transacted. The addresses of most of the latter appear in our advertising columns.

**AMERICAN SUBSCRIBERS.**—In reply to several enquiries, it may be stated that subscribers in the United States can be supplied with the *Mining Journal* post-free, at the price of \$850, gold per annum, payable in advance, by remitting to Mr. D. Van Nostrand, publisher, and importer of scientific books, &c., Murray-street, New York; or, direct to our Office, 26 Fleet-street, E.C.

THE MINING JOURNAL.  
Railway and Commercial Gazette.

LONDON, OCTOBER 27, 1877.

## COLLIERY EXPLOSIONS.

Two colliery accidents in opposite parts of the kingdom within a fortnight, involving a loss of upwards of 200 lives, are the latest additions to be added to the many that have preceded them from explosions of fire-damp, and to increase the long list of victims who have succumbed in total darkness to the devastating effects of carburetted hydrogen, or fire-damp. The disasters at Glasgow and Wigan were evidently the result of identical causes, and remind one of the terrible explosions which took place at Lund Hill, Hartley, the Oaks, and Swaithe Main, as well as of some of those which occurred at mines in South Wales, and which in any practical and able men believe were all preventable. Under such circumstances, and seeing that the cause of all these terrible fatalities in connection with our coal mines were identical in the main, it may well be asked what benefit we have derived from the experience of the past, seeing that on all occasions when there has been a serious loss of life from accidents in collieries we have been favoured with the opinions of the ablest mining engineers of the country as to the best means for preventing such sad calamities. Yet with all the knowledge it might reasonably be supposed we have added to our old stock from the inquiries made as to the origin of explosions in collieries we appear to have fallen back into the old ruts as soon as the grave has swallowed up its hundreds of victims, and the name of the place where some appalling catastrophe has taken place is only remembered by the sorrowing families of those who were killed.

Without alluding particularly to either of the two recent explosions, or in any way endeavouring to anticipate the inquiries respecting them that will be made, we certainly hold that an explosion of fire-damp at a colliery where all the prescribed rules are fully carried out should be all but impossible. This is clear from the wording of the first General Rule of the Act of 1872, which provides that so far as reasonably practicable an "adequate amount of ventilation shall be constantly produced in every mine to dilute and render harmless the noxious gases to such an extent that the working places of the shafts, levels, &c., shall be in a fit state for working and passing therein." If that rule is fully carried out we cannot see how an explosion can take place, but if the ventilation is neglected, or no provision made for any probable change of atmospheric pressure, then an accident, however serious, ought not to create any surprise. But we certainly think that the time has come when explosions ought to be looked upon as preventible, although some of our contemporaries consider that such is not the case, although in expressing so much in that direction they are opposed to the views of scientific and practical men. With respect, however, to the occurrence near Glasgow, the Times makes some very pertinent remarks, which quite coincide with our own opinions. They are to the effect that the explosion belongs to that class of accidents which ought never to have been suffered to occur, and that there is grave doubt whether it ought properly to be set down as an accident at all. But some of the other daily papers fall back upon the favourite theory so often found convenient by non-practical men, which connects a fall of the barometer with the escape of fire-damp in collieries resulting in an almost inevitable explosion. This theory many of our oldest colliery managers have entirely discarded, for they consider that hitherto far too much reliance has been placed on the barometer, and that other means should be looked for to ascertain what are the causes of the violent eruptions of gas in mines that was experienced from time to time. It has also been suggested by some of them that natural currents of electricity may lead to a liberation of those forces which occasionally lead to such serious disasters as those we have had recently to chronicle. With respect to the barometr many of our mining engineers look upon it with supreme indifference, although the adoption of it in coal mines is enjoined by Act of Parliament.

The present manager of the well-known Oaks Colliery, in South Yorkshire, Mr. WILSON, who has had great experience with respect to sudden outbursts of gas and their attendant destructive properties, publicly stated that the barometer, so far as mines were concerned, could well be dispensed with, for he had noticed that when they had a large quantity of gas previous to the barometer failing they had it also previous to its rising. But it is to be feared that men of less ability place far too much reliance on the reading of the barometer to the neglect of more ordinary and practical precautions, for it has been found in some instances that the alteration in the state of the gas has not been indicated by the barometer until eight hours after the occurrence. What is, then, required is that the ventilation of a colliery should be such as not to be dangerously affected either by fluctuations of the barometer or from any other ordinary cause, for in collieries which are known to give off a good deal of gas provision should always be made for overpowering any sudden outburst of it by the amount of air passing through the workings. In such mines, too, it is of the deepest importance that naked lights should not be used, but the best of safety-lamps only in every working place. But there is another source of danger, and which has, probably, led to more disastrous explosions

in collieries than any other—and that is blasting with powder. And here we may state that at the Pemberton Colliery, at Wigan, as well as at the one at High Blantyre, the coal was brought down by shot firing, and at the former, at least, were not discharged exclusively during the night. Now, on more than one occasion with respect to the loss of life which has taken place in Lancashire in particular, we have drawn attention to the great danger which must ever prevail in all mines where it was found necessary for the ordinary safety of the men to use safety-lamps, but where, at the same time, powder was used for the purpose of bringing down the coal. Danger accumulates upon danger, and the men, to whom is entrusted almost unlimited quantities of powder, use it unsparingly, without consideration, or examining the different parts of the mine to see whether gas has been gathering in such quantities that it would be ignited by the flame from a shot. When such a system is carried out need anyone be surprised to hear of explosions in which scores and hundreds of lives are sacrificed to the thoughtlessness—or it may be the negligence—of one or two men? But we are told that the men whose duty it is to fire the shots are set apart for that purpose with clear and intelligent instructions to guide them.

But so far as we are aware it is not their duty to examine the working places or any goaves that may be in the vicinity of the place where a shot is about to be fired. If they were to do so we cannot see how an explosion could take place provided all the lamps were in an efficient state. To prevent such catastrophes, however, the only sure and effectual means is to prohibit the use of gunpowder in all mines were safety-lamps are considered essential to the safety of the men in underground workings. In South Yorkshire, since the destructive explosion at Swaithe Main a few years ago, the men at most of the collieries determined not to use powder, but to fell the coal by the far more laborious process of wedging, and the consequence has been that the most fiery mining district in the kingdom, and the one where the loss of life has been the greatest from the blasting of the coal, has enjoyed an immunity from colliery explosions which it never knew before. Let the same course be adopted in Lancashire and other places where the miners are known to have dangerous accumulations of gas oozing from the coal, and such calamities as those which have recently taken place at the Pemberton and Blantyre Collieries would be all but unknown, and until such a course is carried out we shall no doubt frequently have colliery explosions with great loss of life, followed by appeals to the public for the support of the widows and children of the men whose lives in all probability would have been spared had a safer and different but well-known system of getting coal been adopted. We do not say that any persons in particular are to blame for the carrying out of a system so fraught with danger, and it is quite probable that the men would be opposed to any change, seeing that they would have to make some sacrifice of wages in working with the safe wedge instead of the dangerous and deadly powder.

In the coal field of the Clyde Basin, we would just remark, some of the seams are known to give off a good deal of gas, which, of course, will be found in the places where the coal has been worked out, and these excavations at all times should be suspected even where there are no openings between the excavations and the beds. At Blantyre the men it appears were working back getting the pillars and props that had been left when the great bulk of the coal was worked out, so that they would leave large openings behind them, to which the inflammable gas would find its way in considerable quantities. The pillars and posts we are told were brought down by blasting, so that the probability is that from where a shot was fired would be but a short distance from an open space, which might only be a reservoir for gas, and requiring but a spark to ignite it. But as all that relates to the terrible Scotch catastrophe will be made known in due time we refrain from further comment upon it. But we cannot but once more call upon colliery owners whose seams are known to give off gas in considerable quantities requiring the men to work with safety-lamps, to do all they can to discontinue the use of gunpowder for the sake of their own property as well as of the lives of their workmen. Were they to do so we should have very few accidents to record by explosions, whilst hundreds of men would not be cut off in their prime, for there is no reason why one-third at least of the whole of the miners should be prematurely cut off by the hand of death, or why the wife and family should become dependent on public charity for a bare maintenance. On the other hand, without the use of powder a colliery when properly drained and ventilated may be made not only healthy but more salubrious and agreeable as place of work than those in which many kinds of labour are carried on above ground. This is what we desire to see effected, so that the men in our mines may be not only healthy but work with the full knowledge that they are doing so with safety, and that explosions of gas are an impossibility.

## THE COAL PRODUCTION OF THE WORLD.

The coal production of the globe has enormously extended during the last 30 years. It is only when we bring a severe statistical analysis to bear upon the subject that we can fully appreciate the progress which has been made. The six principal coal producing countries may be said to be Great Britain, Belgium, the United States, France, Prussia, and Austria, the expression Austria embracing, of course, Hungary. These six countries produced in 1845 an aggregate of 49,211,400 tons of coal, this aggregate being made up as follows:—Great Britain, 31,500,000 tons; Belgium, 4,900,077 tons; the United States, 4,400,000 tons; France, 4,141,617 tons; Prussia, 3,500,000 tons; and Austria, 709,706 tons. In 1874 the corresponding aggregate production of the six countries had grown to no less than 253,650,700 tons. Great Britain contributing to this imposing array of figures 125,043,300 tons; Belgium, 14,669,000 tons; the United States, 42,423,900 tons; France, 16,949,000 tons; Prussia, 41,754,600 tons; and Austria, 12,810,900 tons. Great Britain produced nearly one-half, it will be seen, of the whole coal extraction effected by the various nations under review. The immense supremacy of Great Britain over her neighbours in the matter of coal mining is reflected in the fact that in 1874 this country raised 39 tons of coal per head of its population, the corresponding proportion in the case of Belgium being 28 tons, in the case of the United States 10½ tons, in the case of France 4½ tons, in the case of Prussia 17 tons, and in the case of Austria 3½ tons. The coal extraction of Great Britain in 1874 was ten times as large as the corresponding production of Belgium, three times as large as that of the United States, three times as large as that of Prussia, eight times as large as that of France, and ten times as large as that of Austria. It should be noticed, however, that the coal production per head of the population effected by Belgium in 1874 approached more nearly to that of the United Kingdom than that of any other country. Even when subjected to this latter test, the coal production of Great Britain still maintains, however, a decided pre-eminence.

The great increase observable during the last three decades in the coal production of the various countries to which we have been directing attention is, of course, the result of a largely increased demand, and this demand has been very materially stimulated by the progress which has been achieved since 1845 in the work of railway construction. In 1845 Great Britain, Belgium, the United States, France, Prussia, and Austria possessed between them 9,666½ miles of railway; in 1875 the corresponding total had grown to 128,151 miles, showing an increase of about 1400 per cent. Not only have railways consumed considerable quantities of coal and coke upon their own account, but they have also given an immense impetus to the development of steam-powered industries; hence the demand for coal has been ever growing, and production, as a natural consequence, has kept pace with it. The greatest advance made by any country in the construction of railways in the course of the last 30 years has been achieved by France. Thus the French railway system, comparing 1875 with 1845, exhibits an advance of 2381 per cent., the corresponding advance in the case of Great Britain having been 558 per cent.; in the case of Belgium, 510 per cent.; in the case of the United States, 1423 per cent.; in the case of Prussia, 1459 per cent.; and in the case of Austria, 1551 per cent. There would appear to be a very close and intimate connection between the development of railways and the development of coal mining; but it is noticeable that while the establishment of railways in

France during the last 30 years has expanded at the rate of 2381 cent. French coal mining has only advanced at the rate of 300 cent. The French are not over fond of coal working.

**COAL AND IRON IN THE UNITED STATES.**—The market for rails has become unsettled at Philadelphia, and prices are the lower quotations, and for the time being buyers are rather held off. It is expected, however, that some large contracts will be placed before the close of the month, but the continued and steady decline in prices seems to have shaken confidence. Quotations main at \$44 to \$45 per ton currency, but purchases could be made at \$2 per ton less for cash. Business in iron rails has been quiet, but there has been rather an active demand for some descriptions of manufacturer. Contracts are stated to be pending for several ocean steamers, this report must be received with considerable reserve. The demand for bar-iron is unsatisfactory. Scrap-iron has been in rather a manly spirit. There has been a continued steady demand for all the leading grades of steel at Pittsburgh, and most of the mills are running, some to full extent of their productive capacity. There has been an increasing business in scrap-iron at Pittsburgh, with the exception of old rails, which are extremely dull. The total production of anthracite and bituminous coal in Pennsylvania to Sept. 22 this year was 16,204,044 tons, as compared with 14,586,726 tons in the corresponding period of the year 1876.

**THE COLLIERY ACCIDENT IN SCOTLAND.**—As regards destruction of life the Upper Blantyre calamity must be assigned a place among the most disastrous colliery accidents that have happened in the country—the total loss being 209. In fatality it does not equal the explosion at the Oaks Colliery, near Barnsley, by which some men and boys were killed; but with this exception it is the most destructive on record. The Hartley Colliery accident involved the loss of 204 lives; some 200 miners were drowned by the flood of the Shankhouse Pit, in Northumberland, in 1867; over 100 perished in the Lundhill explosion; the explosion at the Fern Colliery, in the Rhondda Valley, was almost as calamitous; 145 were killed at Risca, and about 140 at the Swaithe Main near Barnsley. As to the cause of the disaster, we are left entire to conjecture, and this being the case no good purpose can be served by discussing the purely speculative theories which have been put forward. Mr. Ralph Moore, the energetic inspector of collieries, has been most indefatigable in his attention and exertion, and the Secretary of State has directed that a public local inquiry be held into the cause of the explosion shall, as soon as practicable, be held by Mr. Willis, Inspector of Mines for Northumberland and Cleveland, has arrived at Blantyre, to assist Mr. Moore. Mr. Dickins, Inspector for South and East Lancashire and Ireland, and Mr. Davies, Inspector for South Wales, are on their way. Mr. Davies, the principal proprietor of the colliery in which the calamity occurred, has headed an appeal to the public for aid to the widows and orphans by a subscription of 1000/. We have fully referred to the subject in another column of this day's Journal.

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CERTIFIED COLLIERIES.**—Another adjourned meeting in connection with the above Association was held on Saturday at the Brunswick Hotel, Manchester, the attendance was again only small, and the proceedings were an informal and private character. It may be stated, however, that a considerable number of letters have been received from colliery managers in various parts of the country, expressing their willingness to join the Association; and in order to further the organisation of the society it is probable that before long meetings will be held in a number of central towns to ascertain the feeling of colliery managers in the various large mining districts of the country.

**THE MINING INSTITUTE OF CORNWALL.**—The excellent beginning made by this Association was prominently noticed in the *Miners Journal* at the time of its inauguration, and it is gratifying to find that the energy of the officials continues unabated. It has been arranged that the first exhibition and conversations shall be held at Camborne on Nov. 22 and the following day, and every means being taken to ensure success. The general secretary (Mr. T. E. Provis) is inviting applications for space from intending exhibitors of scientific apparatus, minerals, pictures, &c.; whilst Mr. Willoughby Teague, jun., the secretary of the Mechanical Department, on behalf of the Mechanical Committee, is inviting inventors or possessors of models of machines applicable to mining purposes to communicate with him with a view to their exhibition. From the interest which has been taken in the Institute by the mine managers of Cornwall the exhibition would certainly appear well calculated to bring useful novelties under their notice, and it is evident that the executive intend giving the gathering a practical business turn, for it is mentioned that there will be no charge for space, but a small commission on all articles sold. That there will be a good attendance scarcely be doubted, as it will afford the visitors an excellent opportunity of seeing what is being done, and judging what new inventions are more particularly applicable to the purposes of mines with which they are connected, whilst the certificates of merit which are to be awarded will be valuable to the exhibitors as showing that the merits of the exhibits have been recognised by practical men thoroughly acquainted with their use. It is understood that the President (Dr. C. Le Neve Foster) and secretaries have for some weeks past been preparing an attractive programme and that Prof. Bell's large size telephone is to be amongst the articles exhibited. The project is one which cannot fail to be of great advantage to visitors and exhibitors, and should, therefore, be warmly supported.

**FIRELESS LOCOMOTIVE FOR TRAMWAYS.**—An entirely new kind of locomotive has been for some time past in use in the tramways of New Orleans, the invention of Mr. THEODORE SCHAFER, of Paterson, New Jersey, and the result of a year's practical use has been very satisfactory. As a substitute for fire, hot water is charged from stationary boilers into a large tank carried by engine, and suitably arranged for supplying the motion. The apparatus consists of a cylindrical tank 31 in. diameter and 9 ft. long, with a capacity of about 300 gallons for holding the hot water. The driving wheels are 30 in. in diameter, and the leading wheel 20 in., with a wheel base of 5 ft. 7 in. The cylinders are 4½ in. The valve gear consists of a main valve which works full stroke all the time, and controls the exhaust with a steam valve worked by a link which governs the admission. Both valves are, however, worked by the same link, and the valve gear has been patented by Mr. Schaffer. The total weight of the engine with tank full of water is under 4 tons. At the commencement of each journey the tanks are charged with water from a stationary boiler which is heated up to a temperature due to a pressure of 220 lbs. per square inch. A six-mile run with an ordinary loaded train reduces the pressure to 40 lbs. per square inch, and the valve gear gives quite automatically a variable cut off to suit the very wide range of pressure. One great difficulty which is counteracted is in charging the boilers, it being no easy matter to heat water all heated uniformly to a temperature of 300°, and it is usually found that in running from the stationary boiler to the place where the engine is attached to the car the pressure will fall from 220 to 190 lbs., but the engine would even then run a distance of 3½ miles, and have 100 lbs. pressure in the tank at the end of that distance. With 80 lbs. pressure the engine would pull a load upon a fairly level tramway while the steam was cut off at one-fifth or one-fifth of the stroke. Further details are necessary to enable an accurate opinion being formed as to the probability of the invention proving permanently useful, but there is no doubt that it possesses the necessary elements of success.

**GENERATING HEAT.**—The invention of Mr. JAMES YOUNG, Kelly, Renfrewshire, consists in blowing steam through one or more tuyeres arranged in the lower part of furnaces or fire-places, so that the inducing action of the steam draws in with it atmospheric air,

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the steam and air become mixed, and in the mixed state diagnosed amongst the ignited fuel and burned. The invention specially applicable to furnaces for smelting ores.

## REPORT FROM CORNWALL.

Oct. 25.—There is no diminution in the brightness of the prospects for our tin mines are concerned, and the advance on the official statement still continues to be maintained. Naturally, however, there is not quite so much activity in the share market. It is the custom to drawal to do matters rather with a rush, and there is a decided unconcern in the habits of the bulk of mine adventurers, if not all, in the management of their concerns. "One and All" thoroughly applies to them, and they buy in a body when prospects brighten, and either case without much consideration. "Out-venturers" are probably the worst for this, but there would be very little stability in such mining enterprise if some shareholders—luckily they are mostly among the most deeply interested—did not act in a different spirit. It is those who stick to their shares who are the true men of Cornish mining, and who deserve to reap its rewards. The late chief profit has been reaped by speculators who were not enough to anticipate the recent turn in the tide, and have profited handsomely accordingly.

It has been remarked, apparently in reference to an observation of ours, that a University education is not necessary to the management of mining engines, "that a University education is not necessary to make a man to shovel coals into the boiler of a Cornish engine," probably for boiler fire-place is intended, but we pass that by. The question is not whether a University education is needed, but whether any education at all is required. Our engine-houses are very commonly—in the modest spirit we admit—been made judges of the destitute, the lame, the halt, and we might almost call the blind. If the duties of our enginemen consist merely in shovelling coals into a boiler" probably they are very well fitted for them, and their deprecative may be a cause of economy by preventing a too active performance of that work. But in a good deal more involved in the position of an engineman than. Even if we waive the point that the man who has to do with machinery should know something about it, the fact remains that stoking is not a mere rule of thumb, and that it is not done in the manner a Devonshire man is said to load his dung-hill, by shovelling the stuff in as quick as he can, and till it can hold no more. In order that due economy may be exercised the fire requires constant care and a continual exercise of judgment, that the coal may be supplied in the right quantities and at the right times, see quite within the mark when we say that three times the quantity of work may be got out of the same amount of coal used than advantage than when shovelled in with, to use the common phrase, a "what care I?" Again and again the importance of such suggestions as these has been denied, but sooner or later we have to be attended to. We admit now what we stated before, that the same duty cannot be got out of old engines as out of new, but that is no argument for not making the best of them. How is that done, or rather not done? It is not only in the skill of enginemen that we are behind hand, but a few years since coal economists, which answer admirably, were brought immediately under the notice of our mine managers. They may have looked at them, but we do not believe there is one to be found in any mine in the county.

There appear to be fair prospects that the exhibition of matters connected with mining, to be held under the auspices of the Mining Institute, will be a success, certainly in the utilitarian point of view, in the right view here, at any rate. There is plenty of room for the work which the Institute proposes to itself beyond the sphere which the Polytechnic Society has so long and so usefully been occupying, but it must not be thought that to get up such an exhibition as is now proposed will be by any means an easy task; still less easy to make it an annual affair.

We are glad to find that Messrs. Stocker are persevering in their efforts to introduce the hydraulic system as practised for gold and silver mining in California, &c., into the clay workings of Central Cornwall. Sooner or later this must revolutionise the method of working the clay strata, economising labour, and relieving the men from the most disagreeable and arduous portion of their duties.

The death of Mr. John Allen, of Stowford, Ivybridge, near Camborne, will be regretted by all who knew him. He was widely known as the head of the firm of Messrs. Allen and Sons, the proprietors of large works at Ivybridge; but he was also the largest shareholder in the famous Old Delabole slate quarries, the present position of which great concern is due in no slight degree to his tact and his energy. He died at a good old age, deeply lamented. His most recent acts was, in connection with his sons, to build a Wesleyan chapel at Ivybridge at a cost of 6000*l.*

## REPORT FROM NORTH AND SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE.

Oct. 25.—Colliery owners are still complaining of a lack of business, and the slackness is chiefly felt at those collieries where furnace and iron manufacturing seams are worked combinedly. The Cannock and Derbyshire colliery owners are sending increased quantities of fuel into districts formerly supplied by pit proprietors in the neighbourhood. The pig-iron trade is without revival, and is difficult to secure. All mine qualities are quoted at 4*s.* per ton, and for mills and forges are doing no less than they recently were, still less marked increase in the orders: 8*s.* 10*d.* is the crucial point.

Having been made known that several colliery proprietors who signed the Bilton petition for exemption from the operations of the Mines Drainage Act have now withdrawn their names, the Commission do not take this view of the matter, and the cut-off date has been in but slow movement on changes since my last. The original shares of the Sandwell Colliery Company have sold at 8*s.* premium, and the new shares of the company, upon which 3*s.* is paid, at 7*s.* 1*d.* John Bagnall's property has changed hands at 3*s.* 7*s.* 6*d.* The shares of the Nut and Bolt Company have fetched 7*s.* 7*d.* Buyers of the Spon Lane Colliery Company's shares are in the market at 12*s.* per ton, but holders decline to sell at over 5*s.* Sellers in the Ivy Colliery quote 7*s.* 6*d.* but at the figure no buyers came forward. The Spon Lane Colliery Company's shares might be sold at 12*s.* per ton, but there are no holders at this price in the market. Buyers trying to secure the Pelsall Coal and Iron property at 12*s.* per ton hang back.

A meeting of shareholders in Joseph Wright and Co. (Limited) friend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum was declared for the year ending June 30, carrying forward 1298*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.* to the credit account. The Parkgate Wagon Company and the Northfield Company have suspended payments. The Parkgate Wagon Company, which was started five years ago, had a capital of 50,000*l.* for the first two years it paid a dividend of 20 per cent. and then 10 per cent., but a loss of 8000*l.* was sustained last year, and the shareholders have resolved to wind-up the concern. The Northfield Company, with a capital of 50,000*l.*, also sustained heavy losses last year, and on Monday the works for the manufacture of tyres were closed.

It has been resolved to liquidate by arrangement the estate of Mr. W. Stonehewer, iron merchants, of Horsley Heath, Tipton, of the County Ironworks, West Bromwich, who have had their creditors, with liabilities amounting to 15,789*l.* and 1*s.* The debtors commenced business in 1869, as iron manufacturers, and between that period and 1876 (when they ceased

manufacturing) they lost 10,690*l.* and in addition to this they have invested and lost 5000*l.* in a South Wales Colliery.

Mr. Noah Hingley, of Dudley, a well known coal and ironmaster in South Staffordshire, died at his residence on Sunday at the ripe age of 82. The deceased gentleman was a county and borough magistrate, and an alderman of the borough, and was widely and deservedly esteemed.

The absorbing question in North Staffordshire is that of wages. A strike has been virtually commenced by the members of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers having waited on Lord Granville's agent to receive the arrears of pay which are kept in hand: 5000 miners are now idle, and it is feared that the strike will spread. Meanwhile there is no improvement either in the coal or iron trades.

At the conclusion of the coroner's enquiry into the boiler explosion which occurred last June at the Ravensdale Ironworks, Tunstall, the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death," coupling with it a recommendation that for the future new boilers and boilers after being repaired should be tested by hydraulic pressure; that no boiler should be worked beyond one-sixth of its bursting strain; and that boilers should always be under the control of competent persons, and should be properly inspected at every change of turn.

## TRADE OF THE TYNE AND WEAR.

Oct. 24.—The demand for best house and gas coal continues to improve a little, and prices for these coals are firmer, but for all other kinds of coal and for coke the demand is both unsatisfactory and unremunerative. At the Ryhope Colliery the pits have been got fully to work, and upwards of 2000 tons of coal were raised per day last week. At Silksworth the output is rapidly increasing, and 1200 tons of coal per day are now raised. When this place is fully developed it is expected that 3000 tons per day will be raised from the Hutton and Maudlin seams. At Whitburn new winning the process of sinking by the Belgian Chaudron, or boring system, is now in full progress, and we give below some details, showing what has been accomplished so far. In Northumberland, collieries are still laid off daily. At Horsley Colliery, west of Newcastle, the hands, 120 in number, have got notice. The men at New Delaval Colliery have also got notice. One of the Crayton pits at Shank House has also to be stopped. Some of the works, however, as at Cambis and Coupen, have been doing better. The men have agreed to adopt the system of casting the small coal and shale got in holing back, thus returning to the old system, which was only discarded during the coal famine in 1873, and which has wrought such mischief. This is an important step, and it will lead to considerable benefit to all parties, as the owners will thus be relieved of the cost of drawing these waste coals from the workings to bank, and the cost of clearing the coals at surface for the market will also be considerably reduced. The men, however, refuse to accept the seven-hours work underground, which is much to be regretted, as has been pointed out in this letter. The time mentioned is quite necessary to enable a man to get his place properly holed, and the coal taken down. These short hours are another result of the coal famine alluded to above, and the habit will be difficult to break down now that it has been formed.

**WHITBURN NEW BORING**—The process of boring the shafts at Whitburn by the Cauiron process is now in progress. A borer 5 ft. in diameter is at work in the centre of the main shaft; when this borer is worked continuously night and day the rate of progress is 20 ft. per week, and 50 ft. has now been bored and completed 5 ft. in width; when this borer is put down to the bottom of the water-bearing strata 300 ft. the larger borer will be put to work, which will be 17 ft. in diameter, and when this is completed the rings of metal which are to form the tubing will be lowered securely bolted together. Those rings are cast complete the full size of the shaft, and in this case they are 14 ft. diameter inside and 5 ft. in depth, each piece weighing about 7 tons. The process is very interesting, both in the sinking process and the process of bringing up the debris produced. We have before described the process of sinking. The debris is brought up, and the shaft cleaned in this way. An iron tank is lowered down, which is simply a "wunnel," so well known to borers, on a large scale. This tank is fitted with valves opening upwards at the bottom of the tank, and, of course, as it is worked into the bottom of the shaft the debris passes into it, and when it is drawn up those valves shut, and thus the shaft is quickly cleansed, from 1 to 2 tons of rubbish being brought up at one time. Before the iron tubing is lowered when the shaft is finished below the water-bearing strata a water-tight packing of a peculiar kind is fitted on the bottom flange, and when this lowered and made secure it only remains to pump the water out of the space inside the tubing. The shaft can then be sunk in the ordinary manner through the shales, which are generally free from water. When it is considered that the limestone at Whitburn is of a very hard nature the progress made must be considered satisfactory, and the success of the adventure may also be fairly calculated upon.

## NORTH OF ENGLAND INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERS.

The North of England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers had an excursion last week to Stonecroft and Greyside, and the Settlingstone Lead Mines, near Newbrough, in Northumberland.

**THE PRUDHOM STONE**.—The party (about 150) first visited the works, adjoining the railway station, of Mr. W. Benson, the proprietor of the celebrated freestones and limestone quarries in that locality. The first thing to attract the attention of the visitors was a new stone-dressing machine—Hunter's patent. It was put in operation on the arrival of the visitors, and a stone about 5 ft. 9 in. in length, and 18 in. broad, was dressed in about 4*s.* 1*d.* minutes. The machine is considered to do the work of from 15 to 20 men. The full capacity of the machine, of course, can only be obtained when working stones of the full width of the cutters, which go over a stone of the full width as over one of less proportions. The machine is a great improvement upon those of the kind formerly used. In the older machines the cut was straight upon the face of the stone, and consequently the wear and tear of the knives was very great. In the new arrangement the cutters revolve upon an axle, so that the cut is given in the shape of a curve or scoop, and consequently the edge of the cutter is much less damaged than in the former case. The machine is capable of dressing 300 superficial feet per day. In the same works are machines for similarly saving manual labour in the case of timber sawing and planing. The instruments are both manufactured by Messrs. Ransome and Co., of Chelsea, London. One is a band saw which cuts out corves, cart-wheel tyres, break wheels, and similar articles, and does the work of seven or eight men; the other is a boring, sawing, and planing machine. It is used for riveting door frames as well as cutting, and does an immense quantity of work. An instrument by the same makers, and also in this workshop, is used principally for guillotining and sharpening saws. The party also visited Mr. Benson's scientific works at the same place. They comprise a pair of edge stones and 4 ft. 6 in. mill stones. Here, also, are nine lime kilns, likewise the property of Mr. Benson, capable of turning out 150 tons of lime per day; and a joining is a colliery, belonging to the same proprietor, employing between 50 and 60 men and boys. The coal is found in the limestone measure, and from the circumstance of its lying immediately underneath it is not unfrequently called the Little Limestone coal. The quarries of limestone and freestone are situated about half a mile to the north of the railway station. The freestones is the well-known Prudhom stone, so largely used for building purposes, and the only stone of the kind to be found in the district. At this place and in the immediate neighbourhood alone is found the statum of this quality. Large quantities are sent into Lancashire, Westmoreland, and Scotland for the construction of buildings of the better class. Some of the principal buildings in Newcastle—the new Post Office, the Mining Institute, the new club house, and the central station are built of it. The limestone which Mr. Benson is working lies immediately over this, and is the well-known limestone prevailing over the whole of the mining district of the North of England, and which in the Alston Moor and adjacent lead mining territories has been and is still so productive of lead ore. In the district of Newbrough, Fourstones, and Prudhom it is denuded, and the lead ore is raised from beds immediately underneath, down to the whin sill, and also upon the whin sill. The limestone quarry gives employment to over 50 men, and the freestone quarry to over 40, and altogether Mr. Benson's works employ from 180 to 200 hands.

**THE STONECROFT LEAD MINES**.—Another place of interest visited was the Stonecroft Lead Mines, the property of the Greyside Mining Company, which was formed in 1851 by Mr. Benson. The mines are situated about 2*1/2* miles to the west of the Four-tones Railway station, and are being actively and successfully worked. Here, and also at Settlingstone Mines, situated in the immediate neighbourhood, guides were in attendance to conduct the visitors over the surface works and also through the workings of the mine. In the Stonecroft Mine about 130 men are employed, and at the surface about 70. The visitors were conducted through the mine by Mr. Ware, the courteous and able manager of the mine, and Mr. Wm. Lee, the principal foreman of the underground works. We found the matrix composed of lead ore, carbonate of iron, sulphate of barites, iron pyrites, blende, carbonates of barites, and carbonate of lime; and varieties in width from 6 in. up to 15 or 16 ft. There is a main east and west vein, and also a south vein, which has been very productive for the last 23 or 24 years, and are

still extremely productive, the most productive ground being found in the whilisill. The ore when brought to the surface is taken direct to a hopper for grating, after which it passes to a Black's stone breaker, and thence to the crusher; after this it is taken direct to the classifier for jiggling, the slimes passing at a lower level. The production of marketable lead ore is about 250 tons per month. At the surface is a pumping-engine, 70 in. cylinder, 22 ft. beam, 10 ft. equal stroke; 23 in. plunger; 53 fm. lift; 5*s.* 7*d.* strokes per minute; 558 gallons per minute; 177,444 horse power and consume 4 to 5 lbs. per horse power per hour. The engines are capable of working up to 250 horse-power. The depth of the winding shaft from the surface is 70 fms., and levels are driven off at 13, 30, 40, and 50 fathoms. Most of the ore-dressing machines are driven by steam-power; and water-power is also used. The works above ground were pointed out by Mr. Henry Milburn and Mr. William Nixon, the washing masters.

**THE SETTLINGSTONE MINE**.—This lead mine is also in the immediate vicinity, and was likewise visited. The party were received and conducted over the mine, of which his Grace the Duke of Northumberland is lord of the manor. In this neighbourhood lead ore has been raised for many years. In the works by the side of the burn at Settlingstone the ore is visible, and bears evident traces of having been worked by the Romans. Mr. John Hall, M.D., commenced working the mine in 1790, and continued to do so for some years, after which it was abandoned, but was re-opened in 1833 by the Messrs. A. and W. Hall, who have worked it continuously ever since. The principal pumping engine here is a Cornish 60-in. cylinder, working plungers of 18 in. diameter, and with 9-ft. stroke. There is a 25-horse power condensing engine. The winding-engine is 16-horse power condensing. One of the shafts is 100, another 75, and another 60 fms. deep. The principal winding shaft is Mr. Winter's, where the pyrites are drawn from the workings of from 60, 70, and 80 fms. lift. It is chiefly carbonate of barite. Between 2000 and 3000 tons of carbonate are annually produced, and are shipped principally to France and Germany. A little goes to America, and some is used in England for glassmaking and other industrial arts. The chief production of barite is found in two or three mines in the North of England; and here is one of the principal sources of supply. Almost the entire product of the British Islands is in fact within a few miles of this place. The mine is also worked for lead ore. The run of the known vein through the royalty is about a mile and a quarter. The mine is situated in a very picturesque neighbourhood, close to the Roman Wall, and in the neighbourhood of that portion of the wall where recently was the great discovery of Roman coins in the well consecrated to the goddess Coventina, at the Roman camp at Procolitia, on the estate of Mr. John Clayton. A large party of the members visited the shrine, and the whole company afterwards assembled in the village of Newbrough, where they had luncheon provided by Mr. Surtees, innkeeper. Mr. Benson occupied the chair, and various toasts having been proposed, the party proceeded to Fourstones Station, from whence a special train brought them back to Newcastle. The weather throughout the day was exceedingly fine, and the excursion was greatly enjoyed.

## REPORT FROM THE FOREST OF DEAN.

Oct. 25.—We have had occasion repeatedly when writing our reports for the Journal to direct attention to the unfortunate bungling affecting the construction of the Whimsey and Mitcheldean Railway line, which although less than five miles in length, and has been nearly as many years since it was begun, is still in an unfinished state. The company has been singularly unfortunate, as the first contractor became bankrupt, and left the works, and under the subsequent arrangements two or three stoppages have occurred, and, in fact, batches of one kind or another have been rather frequent during its whole history. The connection of its late engineer and contractor with the line was considered a great misfortune, as many engineers of fair skill and energy would have constructed the whole length of line easily in less than two years, and it only includes one tunnel of any length (about half a mile more or less), and a small one perhaps a hundred yards long, and the other cuttings only answer to a flea bite in such things, and yet even now the short line is unfinished, and likely to be so for some time to come. The tunnel has some 60 yards or more now to cut through, excepting a mere heading, which has long been driven its whole length. It is only arched in sections, leaving wide gaps without walling, rock sides in some distances, and mere marl or shale in other places, which it is believed no Government Inspector is ever likely to pass as it is. We visited it only a few days ago, and passed along its whole length as far as we could without going upon all fours (hands and feet), i.e., the whole distance, except the bit of heading. To view it some distance in from the front a person of common sense would infer that the managing contractor had taken leave of his senses, as he had the stupidity to arch over without first cutting the proper depth, so that before the permanent rails can be laid from 2 to 3 feet (and even more) will have to be cut out from the floor of the tunnel below the side walling, which may be expected in some places to render the arching very insecure. Thanks be the dawdling and muddling contractor is severed from the works, although as an enticer to further connection he stated to the directors, it is said, that he could finish it in about three months for—we were informed, though we cannot vouch for it—3000*l.* We gravely doubt whether it can be done for any such sum, and at the rate of his former progress it would take the said contractor nine months to finish.

Our opinion is that it will take from four to seven months to complete the line, according to the kind of men employed to do the work. The former contractor was very capricious—he would suddenly put out a number of men, and as abruptly discharge them, without any apparent reason—outsiders supposing that one reason in not keeping a full complement was to make a good job last a good while; but the real reasons for his actions, we may conclude, were known to himself. When the directors again set the work in motion we hope some competent person will be employed.

It has been industriously circulated that whenever it is opened it will only be for mineral traffic, though we would charitably hope that the Great Western Company will be wiser than that, notwithstanding that tempting offers have been made to them if they will engage selfishly to exclude passenger traffic. We have it on what seems reliable authority that a rich coal proprietor has offered to find all the necessary money to complete the line on the sole condition of the Great Western Railway Company entering into the selfish and unphilanthropic stipulation to exclude passenger traffic. We understand that the line has already cost some 12,000*l.* more than the original estimate, and is likely to cost several thousands more before it is finished. If the Great Western Company wish to prevent an independent line by others being constructed they had better pay no heed to the selfish offer alluded to. There is a new scheme of railway proposed from Abergavenny to Ross, with a branch junction to Lydbrook to meet the Severn and Wye; but, although desirable, we fear it is in wrong hands to meet with success. But when the plans, &c., are deposited we shall know more about it, and be better able to judge of its prospects.

Some time ago we referred to a dispute respecting the boundary line of a coal gale, affecting the rights of the owners of the Staplebridge and Mid-Church Collieries, the one belonging to Messrs. Gollop and Ridder, or held by them of Mr. Warman, and the other to Mr. Crook and another. We mentioned that the Gavelor had directed a hearing to be held to ascertain the facts of the case. But it is held by Mr. Crook and his partners that the terms of the award exclude the right claimed by Messrs. Ridder, and it is significant circumstance that if the coal does belong to them that with such assumed rights they should stop their works. Attempts have been made to clear up the points by Mr. Crook taking witness to Coleford to the Gavelor's office, men who knew the works long ago, and some of whom are said to have been engaged in a former dispute respecting the same piece of coal, but for some reason or other the other side failed to render the necessary presence and attention to decide. It seems that nearly 30 years ago different parties to the present owners occupied the collieries, and that 25 years ago there was an action tried at Gloucester respecting this very piece of coal—Roberts v. Corbet—and that the verdict was for the defendant, the side now represented by Mr. Crook and his partner. We have read the report of trial as published in a Gloucester paper at the time. Some, however, assert that a portion of the coal seams referred to remains unawarded to the present date, but that an application has been entered in the Gale Book by a free miner for the coal in question, so that it is likely to have a future history as well as past one. It is desirable to avoid expensive law suits, but when opposite parties are strongly persuaded of opposing rights in the same property, it seems scarcely possible to prevent the lawyers getting some good pickings out of the litigants. We hear little of the experiment going on at Speculation and Trafalgar Collieries, but that little is of a conflicting character, but in due time we hope that a decision will be arrived at consistent with the real facts of the case, and that the source of inflow of water to Trafalgar Colliery will be clearly ascertained and decided. We understand that Mr. Barrett is engaged repairing boilers, and otherwise making preparations for re-starting Waterloo, or, as it is called by others, Prince Arthur Colliery, near Lydbrook, but that instead of working it himself he intends getting up a company to take it in hand; but whenever its pumps are set a going it will play an important part as to the water question. Some fresh operations are reported in West Dean, what is called Teign's Pit at How Beach being again in force, sending house coal to bank. Whether the death of Mr. G. Russell will affect any of the works with which he has been connected does not yet appear. He was much regarded as a genial kind-hearted man, and will be much missed by his friends and acquaintances. The iron mines of Buck Shaft, St. Ann's, Westbury Brook, &c., on the eastern side are in operation, notwithstanding that the iron trade is still low. Notices have been given at the forge for termination of present contracts, which is understood to mean further adjustment of wages; on the whole the improvements formerly reported by us we con-

sidered to be quite maintained, although the coal trade is by no means what we should like to see it, nor is there the demand for labour which implies comfort in the existence of working men; but the labour market is worse on the western side of the Forest than on the eastern side, but nowhere throughout the district is there a good degree of prosperity; still, with the approach of winter cold, we would fain hope for a marked improvement in the demand for household coals, and it is some encouragement to learn that there is improvement in the demand for steam coal. Prices remain in *status quo*, but wages in some instances are reported as tending downward.

#### REPORT FROM MONMOUTHSHIRE AND SOUTH WALES.

*Oct. 25.*—As time rolls on, and winter approaches, the condition of the iron trade by no means improves, nor do the staple trades generally exhibit any sign of returning animation. Rails are being made for India, and this fact has slightly altered things for the better at some of the establishments, but it is feared the winter will be an exceptionally dull time. About the last shipment for the season has been made to the northern ports. Clearances are also being made with regularity to India. As to iron rails, the enquiry continues slack, and prices unremunerative; and, as has been the case of late, the make of bars has been very small. Stocks of pig-iron diminish very slowly. The steel works are employed fairly well. The quarterly meeting of Tin-Plate manufacturers has been held at Swansea. The news to report was not of a very cheering nature, and the attendance was meagre, the members not seeming to take much interest in the Association. The restriction of make will at any rate continue to the end of the year. The news as to the Coal Trade is not at all satisfactory. The foreign demand is not so well kept up, and considering that prices are so low the position of colliery proprietors, and others interested peculiarly in the trade, must be by no means a pleasant one. The home demand for steam coals is fairly brisk, and the same remark applies to house qualities. From some of the collieries it is reported that full employment is given, but in too many cases the men are only on half-time, taking the average.

Judge Falconer has been speaking at the Merthyr County Court on the last great strike and lock-out. Some defendants plead poverty on this account, and his Honour observed that the great works of the country had been then shut up by the talkative delegates who went about. They sent the trade out of the county.

If the men got their Union President and strikes again they would only be beating down that which had already been almost destroyed. The colliers at Forchamian Colliery, Aberaman, object to working three in a stall, except under certain circumstances, and then to be paid extra. The matter has been considered at a delegate meeting, and adjourned.

A "Mining Engineer" writes to a local paper suggesting that the funds not yet distributed at Porth in connection with the Tynwyd disaster be sent to the widows and orphans of those who have recently lost their lives by the great Scotch calamity. The suggestion is one worthy of consideration.

Sir George Elliot, Bart., M.P., has, it is stated, during the week had an interview with Lord Beaconsfield, mainly on the prevention of accidents in coal mines.

The Noxious Vapours Commission has been sitting at Swansea to receive evidence as to the effects on vegetation and health of copper smoke and other deleterious vapours. Lord Aberdare presided, and no decision was, of course, arrived at at the meeting.

Cardiff is to have more dock accommodation. The Glamorganshire Canal Navigation Company have come to the rescue. They have resolved to carry out the work in connection with their floating dock. A new tidal basin of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  acres, and a dock of about 16 acres are projected. The works will be connected with both the Great Western and the Taff Vale Railways. The company intend to shortly ask Parliament for power to raise the necessary capital—some 240,000*l.*

The Cwm-Avon Ironworks, lately the property of the Governor and Company of Copper Miners in England, were sold it will be remembered a few months ago to Mr. Jas. Shaw and some associates for 55,000*l.* It was well known that these works had cost over a million and a quarter of money, but the shareholders after long consultation discouraged by bad management resolved to quit them at any sacrifice. Since the purchase was made a sale has been effected of a small portion of the property—the tin-plate works, with their stocks, for 51,000*l.*, being nearly the whole of the cost price. But besides about 15,000*l.* of copper furnace bottoms have been realised, another 15,000*l.* of pig-iron sold, 12,500*l.* of scrap iron shipped, and private house property to the amount of 10,000*l.* disposed of, these all being included in the purchase. The blast-furnace property is about to be sold for 25,000*l.*, and the remaining house property brings in an annual income of 5500*l.* a year. The extensive collieries, wharf property, foundries, engineering, and fitting shops, brickworks, and chemical and acid works remain untouched. The actual working stock included in the sale was the astounding item of 62,000*l.* It is seldom that such a bargain is made even by the most disheartened shareholders.

#### REPORT FROM DERBYSHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

*Oct. 25.*—With a goodly number of lead mines open the production of ore is particularly small, and some of those that but a few years since were turning out large quantities are now doing little or nothing. The mill dam at Great Hucklow, belonging to the Mill Dam Mining and Smelting Company, was the best last year, Wakebridge and Eyam being the next, but the produce of the three was not equal to what was only a few years since raised at one mine. Even the mines belonging to the Woss family, that formerly did so remarkably well, have been particularly quiet for a considerable time past. In ironstone there does not appear to be so much raised at several places as there was formerly, so that a large percentage of what is consumed is brought from Northamptonshire. Pig-iron has not in any way fallen off in production, but the demand is still rather moderate, yet a good deal is consumed at the works where it is made. Manufactured iron is in rather moderate request, but the foundries continue to be tolerably well off. House coal has rather improved in demand of late, more especially for the London market, so that Clay Cross and several other collieries are now sending a larger tonnage there than they have done for some time past. But this has caused very little alteration in the prices, although some of the London merchants have been charging their customers a great deal more than is warranted by what they have to pay at the pits, so that their profits of late must have been very good. The wonder is that our colliery owners give these gentlemen the opportunity of making so much money as they do, seeing how easy it would be for many of them to sell direct to the consumer, and to the advantage of both. The laying of the foundation stone of the Stephenson Memorial Hall by the Marquis of Hartington at Chesterfield on the 17th inst. was a marked success in every way. It is expected that the erection of the building will be proceeded with energetically, so that the Mining and Mechanical Engineers' Association of Derbyshire will be installed in their new home with as little delay as possible.

Complaints are still rife in Sheffield as to the marked quietness which pervades several of the leading branches of trade, and the slight prospect there is of any improvement taking place in them. The Bessemer railway mills continue their onward course, and what with the Indian and other orders they will be kept going for some months to come at the same rate. Tyres and axles are also in fair request, but there does not appear to be so much doing in ordinary iron rails and railway material. Crucible steel is still quiet, the demand for cutlery and other purposes being still but moderate. Notwithstanding the war very little is being done in rifle barrels, heavy ordnance, or general war material. The armour-plate mills, however, have been doing rather better for our own and, we believe, the Austrian Government, but even in this branch there is room for improvement. Business with the United States is looking better, more particularly with respect to cutlery, whilst some orders are also being placed on Australian account. Ship-plates are rather quiet, whilst a very moderate business is being done in files, saws, and similar goods.

Between Sheffield and Rotherham some of the works have been doing very well; this is more especially the case at Messrs. Steele, Tozer, and Hampton's, who are very busy on the Government order for Bessemer rails for India, and have recently increased their pro-

ductive power, so as to be better able to meet the demand made upon their resources. Engineers are kept moderately well going, and so are makers of railway mineral wagons. In South Yorkshire the house coal trade has kept up very well, and a full average tonnage has been passing over the Great Northern to the metropolis, but more could be sent were it required. The active season for the shipment of steam coal may now be said to have closed, after a very fair time, so far as the tonnage exported to the North of Europe is concerned. Our colliery owners have been able to hold their own in the North Sea against the efforts of their German competitors, who have been pushing their coal in several directions. Steam coal is not in such demand as it has been, but a fair tonnage of gas nuts is being sent away. The proposal of the Midland and Great Western Railway Companies to purchase or lease the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire was rather a surprise, but it has evidently been brought about by the notice given by the Great Eastern for a line to join their main system to the Lancashire and Yorkshire at Askern, and the Manchester and Sheffield at Lincoln. This would give the Great Eastern access to the West Riding coal field, and the colliery owners another route to the Metropolis, which they have been long looking forward to. What the result will be it is not easy to tell just now, but it is to be feared that the Midland and Great Northern acting together will be too much for the Great Eastern.

#### REPORT FROM THE NORTH OF ENGLAND.

*Oct. 25.*—There has again been a week of comparative inaction in all matters affecting the position and prospects of the Iron Trade. The current of business on Tuesday at the Midland-shore iron market was the reverse of satisfactory. Prices, indeed, were lower than they have been for many weeks, perhaps for years, seeing that No. 3 touched 40*l.*, less 1 per cent., and transactions reported at 35*l.* 6*d.*, cash on delivery. I did not hear of any contracts made at lower rates, but I am satisfied from conversations with both buyers and sellers that it is quite easy to place orders at lower rates, some makers finding an increasing difficulty in getting a market for their stuff. There is now about 105 furnaces in blast out of 160 built, and this proportion is making at the rate of fully 5000 tons per week more than a legitimate market can be found for. On the whole, it must be admitted that the outlook is even less satisfactory than it was. There is a constant liability on the part of merchants to "bear" the market, and the attitude of sellers is such that they cannot resist these movements by any successful counteraction. There is now a good deal of iron being shipped to Scotland, and the various countries in the North of Europe are also taking comparatively large quantities, but for local consumption the demand is of the most meagre description.

The finished Iron Trade scarcely calls for any remark. Rail makers are doing literally nothing, except Hopkins, Gilkes, and Company, and the Darlington Iron Company, and the dispute into which this class of property has fallen is indicated by the fact that Mr. Willman, who offered the North Yorkshire Ironworks for sale on Tuesday, failed to elicit a single bid, although this is entirely an iron-rail making concern. The probability is that the works to be offered for sale next week will share the same fate, the investing public having in the meantime a wholesome dread of this kind of property. Plates are in pretty steady demand, but prices are without change.

The coal and ironstone mining trades are slack. In the Cleveland district proper some half-a-dozen of the principal mines continue to be operative. Walker's drilling machine is now being tested by B-ll Brothers (Limited) at another of their mines. The coke trade is fairly busy, but not so much so as it was a few weeks ago. More ovens have been put out within the past few days. There are not now more than 4000 ovens in use out of 17,500 in the county. The price of coke is decidedly weaker, best sorts being only quoted at about 11*l.* 6*d.* at the ovens, while inferior kinds may be bought as low as 9*l.* 6*d.*

#### FURNACES WITH UNDERGROUND SHAFES.

With a view to construct furnaces with a chamber or chambers formed below the fire-grate to a depth of 30 ft. more or less, below the level of the ground to serve as an air shaft by which the fire is fed with air and the supply of air and the heat regulated and maintained especially with furnaces employed for treating metals and other minerals, also for annealing purposes, and for burning, heating, and drying plastic bodies, and for operating upon materials generally by heat. Mr. J. TOUSSAINT, of Birmingham, has patented an invention by which the fire and heat may be caused to act direct upon or against crucibles and other containers arranged above, or in flues or passages leading to the outlet, as desired, but it is particularly applicable when crucibles are employed suspended or supported by oblique or angled projections below and at the side, or by a foot at the bottom, said crucible being formed with a rounded bottom, and with a spout or nozzle from its lower part to the outside of the brickwork or structure to facilitate the molten metal being drawn off.

One method of forming the upper part of the furnace structure above the fire-grate (and which is important as part of his invention), the part below the grate being in all cases by his invention of great depth, whether the structure be vertical or oblique, is this—The furnace may be square, round, or of six or eight sides, or oval; under the fire-grate bars it is in the form of a chimney of a depth from 3 ft. to 30 ft. or more. It may have parallel sides from the bottom to the grate bars, or it may be tapered with its smaller diameter at the upper part, the air-door or opening being somewhat larger than the grate bar part to furnish a full supply of air. At the bottom of this construction there is a door of about the same diameter or rather more than the top of the chimney directly below the fire-grate. This door is double, so as to introduce between the two sand or dust, in order to interrupt the current of air to keep the fire alight night and day. This construction is made so as to give a current of air very rapid and very strong, according to its depth beneath the fire-grate; the greater the depth the stronger and more rapid will be the column of air. At the level of the grate, which is about level with the ground, there is a door which serves to clean the furnace grate, and about 2 ft. above this door there is another door which serves to make the fire from which the heat is derived.

The top of the furnace brickwork is provided with a cap to compel the escaping gases from the cover to pass through an opening in the side wall leading to the chimney. This chimney is placed above the furnace and is available, if desired, to direct the smoke and gas from the foundry. The outlet from the furnace may be directed by a flue or flues in a downward direction to about 3 ft. above the air supply door, to check the outflow of the escaping gases. By this means the gases, which become developed at the top of the furnace, may be utilized by their expansion and consequent pressure on the top of the metals under operation, or upon other bodies which may be in the furnace (say) for bricks, which have to be dried or burnt.

The furnace constructed as described is available for ordinary crucibles, and four or six of such crucibles may be placed in, as found convenient, in order to economise fuel. The heat in this furnace is strongly induced through the length or height of the furnace structure below the fire-grate, and without having recourse to a steam-engine by the great force of the column of air which comes from the bottom of the furnace, which is, as before stated, very deep in the form of a chimney, the fire thereby drawing in the air with avidity. The gases from the fuel in this furnace are very much lighter than the outer air, and exert great heating power around and against the crucible or material under operation.

By this invention the heat from the fire when cone-shaped crucibles are used always finds itself contracted against the sides when ascending to the top of the crucible, and gives to it greater heat. The space above the top of the crucible enables the heat to be kept on top as well as all around. The heat at the top of the crucible is, however, slightly greater than that of the sides, because it is lighter, and concentrated by the opposition of the narrow passage in the cover. By this invention the usual outside high stack or chimney is dispensed

with, and also the steam-engine and the blowing and suction apparatus which now induces draught, and regulates heat in such furnaces.

#### COMBINED STEAM-ENGINES AND PUMPS.

The nature and novelty of the invention of Mr. W. HAMILTON, Glasgow, will be best understood from the statement that the steam cylinder is placed in the same axial line as the pump, which is the ordinary plunger class with the stuffing box of its barrel, and the chamber facing that of the close end of the steam cylinder, having sufficient room between them for packing and screwing them, and when the pump plunger is the same size or smaller than the piston-rod they may be cast in one piece, preferably also (for small sizes of engines) in one with the steam piston, which would then be inserted into the steam cylinder at the upper or outer end close to the steam cylinder and pump barrel may be cast in one to a flangeable foundation horizontally. The steam cylinder and piston are made long enough to have the inlet steam branch formed on the side of the cylinder so as to admit the steam direct to the valve chamber formed in the middle of the piston as a transverse rectangular steam chamber having its ends facing each other and slotted right across the two adjacent cylindrical ends of the piston for the slide valve to work or reciprocate across.

Packing rings are fitted in each end of the piston, and spaces between them and the inner ends of the cylinder equal to the stroke of the crank piston and clearance desired for the steam to act next the piston-rod and pump plunger, which are both hollow in a line with the exhaust port formed in the centre opposite of the steam direct into the hollow plunger of the pump, which by the improvements is made to form the condenser to the engine, and pump to act as an air pump to it, as will hereinafter be more fully described, the steam ports being formed on either side of the exhaust port, the one leading direct into the front end of the cylinder, and the other to the back end of the piston and cylinder tube, one of the segments joining the two ends of this duplex piston being on each side of the steam chamber of the slide valve (working in an annular form) in two parts, the one as an ordinary short steam valve with end faces over the steam ports, and the close discharge chamber between them through which the steam exhausts from either end of the cylinder into the hollow piston rod and pump plunger, while the other part of the valve fits into a close turned chamber at the back part of the valve proper, and has its other face working against the planed back face of the valve chamber, thus keeping the valve up against the opposite front face with in it, and otherwise acting as a guiding and moving block to the valve port by a lateral hole in it into which the crank pin works at the crank end of a shaft passed through an elliptical hole in the centre of the cylinder, and revolves in the port space of the piston cut away to form the steam valve chamber, the spindle bearing secured to a steam-tight flange or otherwise over the hole, the cylinder through which the crank is inserted, and having a short stuffing-box outside the bearing, and a fly-wheel on the hanging end when a single cylinder engine is used; but two separate double cylinder engines on the same framing, with a coupled cross-shaft with the cranks at right angles to each other, which arrangement would be most suitable for motive-power engines, as for marine purposes. The hollow plunger of the pump is fitted with a great number of surface condensing cross tubes as close as convenient throughout its whole surface length at various radial angles of its outer ends beyond the stuffing-box, where it works freely in the barrel or chamber with a space all round sufficient to allow the water to pass the plunger and circulate through the cross tubes passing from the inlet water valve chamber and branch at one end of the barrel to the outlet branch and valve chest at the upper or inner end of the barrel near the stuffing-box, where an annular chamber is formed all round to lead the water freely from the tubes to the outlet branch. The exhaust steam in passing through the inside of the plunger as a surface condenser gets condensed on its surface, and that of the tubes, on which it impinges, these being always kept cold by the water circulating through them and the space between the barrel and the plunger. The condensed steam as water and any vapour or air not condensed passes off by a safety tube at the extreme end of the plunger, working through a stuffing box in the end of the pump barrel into a close discharge chamber fitted with a blow-off cock on it for letting the exhaust steam escape at starting, and also with an outlet branch and valve leading to the inlet cold or supply water valve chamber of the pump.

When the pump is properly at work, and the water circulating through it and the cross tubes, the blow-off cock is shut, and the hot condensed water and air or vapour drawn through the pipe valve controlled by a regulating screw into the suction valve chamber, and forced through the pump with the inlet water, and when desired, a self-acting check valve opening outwards may be filled at the extreme end of the hot water discharge pipe of the plunger which would allow a free escape of the exhaust steam and condensed water, but prevent their flowing back, and even force the hot water into the inlet valve chamber of the pump on the inward stroke of the plunger, thus enabling the pump to use all the waste hot water of the condensed steam, and feed it into the boiler at as high a temperature as was found possible to condense the steam, shutting off the inlet lift of the water valve as found desirable to suit the working condition of the pump. When this construction of engine is used for motive power driving purposes the power might be transmitted by a wheel or pinion keyed on the duplex crank shaft coupled between the engines to drive the other shafts and gears when tooth gearing is to be employed; but when bands or belts are to be used a grooved or flat pulley or drum might be keyed on the middle of the said crank shaft, and it might be made to act as a wheel also when desired. In some cases the hollow pump plunger may be used in whole or in part as a jet condenser by perforating with small holes, or by inserting a perforated rose pipe through sides near the stuffing-box when at the outer part of its stroke that a portion of cold water might enter in jets near where steam enters, and have all the benefit of the cold surface condensation of the plunger or tubes beyond; and the small tube with a valve beyond might in that case be made to force the hot condensed water direct into the boiler by shutting the connection between the chamber and that of the pump supply valve chest, and this might be done also for surface condensation (without rose jets) where water passed through the pump is saline or bad for boiling, the boiler by the force pump, and for marine engines where water would be circulated through the pump.

**COMPRESSED AIR ENGINES.**—An invention of considerable importance in connection with mining by machinery where compressed air is used has been invented by Messrs. STEAR and DANIEL, of Barnsley. It has for its object to construct the valve gear of engines worked by compressed air in such a manner that the formation of ice in the ports is prevented. This is accomplished by allowing the exhaust air to discharge direct into the atmosphere at each end of the cylinder, the valve or valves being worked by electricity in the usual manner, or by tappets, or from the cross head, by other methods.

**NEW RIVER COMPANY.**—Messrs. Edwin Fox and Bousfield at the Auction Mart, on Wednesday, part of a king's freehold estate in the New River, in three lots, at the rate of 97,200*l.* per annum, they also sold 63 new 100*l.* shares, paid-up, in the same corporation for 17,985*l.*, or at the rate of about 285*l.* per share.

**OAKHAM COLLIERIES COMPANY (Limited).**—Mr. Justice LEWIS acting for the Master of the Rolls, has appointed Alfred Good, of the Pudding Lane, public accountant, and Charles Frederick Finney, of St. George's-in-the-East, public accountant, to be official liquidators of this company.

Oct. 27. 1877.]

## THE MINING JOURNAL

1181

COAL MINES REGULATION ACT, 1872.  
EXAMINATION FOR MANAGERS' CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY.  
DISTRICT UNDER THE CHARGE OF JOSEPH DICKINSON, Esq.,  
H.M. INSPECTOR OF MINES.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that an EXAMINATION for MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY, under the above-mentioned Act, will be HELD on the 13th day of December next, and CANDIDATES TENDING TO PRESENT THEMSELVES at such Examination must, on or before the 8th day of December next, notify such intention to the Secretary of the Board, at the above-mentioned District, from whom all information as to particulars may be obtained.

By order of the Board,

MASKELL W. PEACE, King-street, Wigan, Secretary.

Persons who do not reside within the District are equally eligible for examination as those who do.

## THE MINING INSTITUTE OF CORNWALL.

## EXHIBITION AND CONVERSATION.

THE FIRST EXHIBITION of MODELS of IMPROVED MINING MACHINERY, SCIENTIFIC APPARATUS, MINERALS, &c., in connection with the above Institute, will be HELD on the 22nd and 23rd November next, at the Assembly Rooms, Camborne.

Applications for space by intending exhibitors, and further particulars, may be had by applying to—

THOMAS B. PROVIS, General Secretary, Camborne-street, Camborne.

## THE MINING INSTITUTE OF CORNWALL.

THE MECHANICAL COMMITTEE invites all INVENTORS and POSSESSORS of MODELS of MACHINES applicable to MINING PURPOSES, to communicate with me, with a view of EXHIBITING THEM AT THE EXHIBITION ON THE 22ND AND 23RD OF NOVEMBER NEXT.

WILLIAM TEAGUE, Jun., Secretary of Mechanical Department.

## HYDRAULIC PUMPING ENGINES, TWO, 50 H.P.

ENGINES ON SALE—a Bargain.  
Apply—SUN FOUNDRY, LEEDS.

## WANTED, A HORIZONTAL ENGINE about 26 inch cylinder.

from 4 to 5 ft. stroke, with back motion, SUITABLE FOR PUMPING, stating price and particulars, to "W. B." Oakethorpe near Alfreton, Derbyshire.

## WANTED, for LEAD MINES in SPAIN, an UNDERGROUND CAPTAIN.

A knowledge of the language preferred.  
Apply—"Director des Mines de Villaguerre," Almodover del Campo, Provinz Madrid, Spain.

## WHEAT NEWTON IS PAYING 80 PER CENT. PER ANNUM.

HOLMECHURSH " 30 " in the ABOVE, and in all other DIVIDEND MINES, may be SOLD or BOUGHT through EMMENS & CO. (LIMITED), 134, Bishopsgate-street, London, E.C.

## THE FRONTOING AND BOLIVIA (SOUTH AMERICAN) GOLD MINING COMPANY (LIMITED).

It is hereby given, that the next ANNUAL MEETING of the Shareholders will be HELD at the City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street, in the London, on FRIDAY, the 2nd day of November, 1877, at Two o'clock P.M., for the following purposes:—

to receive the report of the directors and the audited statement of accounts for the two half years ending the 31st December, 1876.

to elect a director; to elect an auditor; and for other business.

By order of the Board, J. JAMESON THURAN, Secretary, Gresham House, Old Broad street, London, E.C., 18th October, 1877.

## BORING MACHINERY.

FOR SALE, a double acting WET COMPRESSOR, 6 ft. 6 in. wide, 12½ in. diameter, suitable for driving by water wheel or vertical shaft. This is in a condition equal to new, and is being disposed of to make room for a WEIGHBRIDGE or a 12 ton ditto, in condition equal to new.

by Mr. CORNELIUS BAWDEN, Redruth.

## A SMALL FORTUNE.—£500 for the outlay of every £10, by

uniting his enormous profits, preceded by trifling petty pecuniary expenses, in the PROMOTION of a recherché and unique NON-EXCLUSIVE MERCANTILE COMPANY.

Particulars of "Secretary," 38, Tavistock Crescent, Westbourne London, W.

## C. H. WALKER AND CO.,

MINING AGENTS AND ENGINEERS,  
VALPARAISO AND SAN IAGO,  
CHILE.

## Mr. E. JACKSON,

Associate of the Royal School of Mines.

## ANALYST AND ASSAYER,

or Complete Analyses made of Copper, Silver, Lead, Zinc, Tin, &amp;c., &amp;c., ASSAYING TAUGHT.

108, QUEEN VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, E.C.

## THE TRANSVAAL.

THE BLUE BANK GOLD REEF.—  
100 THOUSAND POUNDS REQUIRED TO WORK this GOVERNMENTED GOLD REEF: £1700 has already been expended in its purchase, and from careful surveys by competent authorities a very large sum is to be expected.

The claims extend 1050 ft. along the Reef, by 200 ft. wide, and a full mile is guaranteed, according to the Gold Law of the Colony.

Mr. MATTHEY, and Co., Assayers to the Bank of England, Her Majt. 2d, give a high opinion of the value of the quartz, and the Reef is highly regarded by a mining captain in whom they have entire confidence.

Any wanted in sums of not less than £250, half of which is only now paid, every shilling shall be expended purely and solely for necessary appliances under the eye of an agent to be appointed by the subscribers.

Subscriptions will hand over in trust for the subscribers a free Government of six acre of fine land as a security for the bona fide of the underwriters.

The genuineness has been proved.

Further particulars, apply to H. C. McDONALD and Co., Agent for the

100, Fenchurch-street, London, E.C.

THE BIRMINGHAM WAGON COMPANY  
(LIMITED)

FACTORY RAILWAY CARRIAGES and WAGONS of EVERY DESCRIPTION, for HIRE and SALE, by immediate or deferred payments. They are capable of carrying 6, 8, and 10 tons, part of which are intended specially for shipping purposes. Wagons in working order mainly constructed.

MANUFACTURERS also of IRONWORK, WHEELS, and EDUMUND FOWLER, Managing Director.

WAGON WORKS, SMETHWICK, BIRMINGHAM.

## LEAD ORES.

Mines.	Tons.	Price per ton.	Purchasers.
Miners	70	£13 15 0	Panther Lead Company.
—But Loggas	14	11 2 6	Sheldon, Bush, and Co.
—Bakersville	26	11 11 6	ditto
—Mills	100	12 10 0	Panther Lead Company.
—dito	58	12 9 0	ditto
—dito	24	12 5 6	Walker, Parker, and Co.
—dito	30	12 5 6	ditto
—dito	7	12 10 6	Panther Lead Company.
—Laxey	100	19 15 0	Runcorn Company.
—Laxey	20	11 13 0	Walker, Parker, and Co.
—dito	50	12 13 6	ditto
—dito	50	12 11 6	ditto
—dito	25	12 11 0	Nevill, Druse, and Co.
	25	12 11 6	Adam Eytton.

## BLEND E.

Mines.	Tons.	Price per ton.	Purchasers.
Miners	65	£4 11 6	Dillwyn and Co.
—dito	18	4 2 6	Vivian and Son.
—dito	27	3 13 6	ditto
—dito	34	4 8 6	ditto
—dito	24	3 10 6	Dillwyn and Co.
—Roman Gravels	25	4 2 6	Villiers Spelter Co.
—dito	40	2 1 6	Dillwyn and Co.

## COPPER ORES.

Mines.	Tons.	Price per ton.	Purchasers.
—Fay Mountain	100	£19 0	H. Hills and Sons.

6 tons of Copper Precipitate, at 8 15 0 ditto

In the Court of the Vice-Warden of the Stannaries.  
Stannaries of Cornwall.

IN the MATTER of the COMPANIES ACTS, 1862 and 1867, and of the OKEL TOR MINE COMPANY.—By the direction of His Honor, the Vice-Warden, Notice is hereby given, that on THURSDAY, the 8th day of November next, at Eleven o'clock in the forenoon, at the Registrar's Office, at Truro, in the county of Cornwall, this Court will proceed to MAKE a CALL of TWO SHILLINGS PER SHARE on all the contributors of the said company, settled on the List of Contributors thereof as present members.

All persons interested therein are entitled to attend at the time and place aforesaid to offer objections to such call.

CHARLES LEE NICHOLS, Official Liquidator.

Dated No. 1, Queen Victoria street, in the City of London,

the 24th day of October, 1877.

In the Court of the Vice-Warden of the Stannaries.  
Stannaries of Cornwall.

IN the MATTER of the COMPANIES ACTS, 1862 and 1867, and of the TUCKER'S DOWNS MINING COMPANY.—ALL CREDITORS or CLAIMANTS of the above named company, who have not received notice from the Official Liquidator thereof, that their claims have been already admitted, are hereby required to COME IN and PROVE THEIR SEVERAL DEBTS OR CLAIMS, at the Registrar's Office, in Truro, within the said Stannaries, on Saturday, the 3rd day of November next, at the hour of Eleven o'clock in the forenoon, or in default thereof, they will be EXCLUDED from the BENEFIT of any DISTRIBUTION made before such proof. And for the purpose of such proof, they are either to attend in person, or by their solicitors or competent agents, at the place and time above mentioned.

FREDERICK MARSHALL, Registrar.

Dated Registrar's Office, Truro, 23rd October, 1877.

## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30TH, NOON.

## WHEAL UNITY WOOD, SCORRIER.

M. R. W. T. DAVEY and MR. J. THOMAS have been favoured with instructions TO SELL, at PUBLIC AUCTION, on Tuesday, October the 30th, at the UNITY WOOD MINE, near the Scorrer Station, on the West Cornwall Railway, the WHOLE of the VALUABLE

## MACHINERY AND MATERIALS

THEREON, CONSISTING OF—  
ONE 70 in. cylinder PUMPING ENGINE, stroke 10 ft. by 9, with THREE BOILERS, 36 tons, and iron balance bob.

160 ft. shears and pulleys. 8 18 in. windbores.  
12 armed capstan. 30 in. pumps.

200 fms. 15 in. capstan rope; about 15 in. H. piece and doorpiece.

500 fms. steel wire rope, from 1½ to 2 in. 15 in. windbore.  
40 in. pump. 18 in. pole, with stuffing box and gland.

20 fms. 13 in. pumps, with working barrel, windbore, and door; 14 fms. 10 in. pumps, with working bottom complete; 20 fms. 6 in. pumps, with plunger bottom complete; 40 pairs fastened strapping plates, from 6 in. to 9 in.; 40 fms. 15 in. rods; 30 fms. 2 in. bucket rods; 18 in. buckets and forms; seatings and clacks; rod and flange bolts; staples and glands; shafts; shaft rolls; drop screws; underground balance bob; cisterns; link chains; shafts; shafts; drop screws; universal joints; winch lifting jacks; keys; &amp;c.

ONE 20 in. cylinder double acting WINDING ENGINE, 6 ft. stroke, with ONE BOILER, 10 tons; 2 iron stamping axles, with lifters, cams, &c., with 32 heads of stamps, with bushes, floors, frames, &c., and dressing floors, complete; Iron tube and dry; 120 ft. waterwheel, 18 in. breast, and 2 ft. ditto; wood sheds, &c.

Large quantity of IRON in yard, BRASS, &c.; new and old TIMBER; and a considerable quantity of MATERIALS, with other things in general use on Mines; also the

## ACCOUNT HOUSE FURNITURE and the TIN LEAVINGS.

All the above are of the very best description, but especial attention may be drawn to the Pumping Engine, which is considered by competent judges to be one of the finest engines in Cornwall; a reference to Lean's Reporter will show that its duty has been invariably above the average, and usually the highest in the list.

Refreshments will be provided at Eleven, and the sale will commence at Twelve o'clock to the minute.

Further particulars may be obtained on application to HENRY MICHELL, Esq., Scorrer; Capt. GEO. TREMAYNE, the Manager; or of JOHN HOCKING, Jun., Esq., the Engineer; or the Auctioneers, Redruth.

Dated October 9th, 1877.

SADDLE-BACK LEAD MINING COMPANY  
(LIMITED).

TO BE SOLD, as a going concern, all the INTEREST of the above company in the EXTENSIVE PROPERTY, formerly known as the WOOD-END AND GATEGILL MINES, now known as the SADDLE-BACK MINES, situated near Threlkeld, Keswick, Cumberland, and also the WHOLE of the PLANT upon the said Mines.

These Mines have been very productive of lead, and the prospects for immediate improvement are very great.

Four veins can be seen in the sett, which is upwards of one mile square.

The Mines may be inspected on application to Mr. WM. PORTER, Threlkeld, and full particulars as to lease, terms, &c., obtained from the Secretary, to whom offers must be sent on or before the 1st of December, 1877.

The Directors do not bind themselves to accept the highest or any offer.

WILLIAM DOBBIE, Secretary.

## TO CAPITALISTS.

AN UNUSUALLY FAVOURABLE OPPORTUNITY OFFERS for ONE OR MORE GENTLEMEN to JOIN in DEVELOPING a LEAD MINE in SOUTH WALES.

The Advertiser has opened the ground towards the lodes, but can proceed no further without additional capital. A few thousand pounds would thoroughly explore the sett, which has been examined and favourably reported on by experienced Mining Engineers. Arrangements would be made either to WORK the MINE PRIVATELY, or the Advertiser would treat with a Gentleman of influence sufficient to BRING OUT a COMPANY in a bona fide manner. All necessary information given; investigation courting.

Address, "A. B. C." care of Messrs. Roberts and Syddon, Stock Brokers, Cardiff.

## TO CAPITALISTS, AND BROKERS.

A SYNDICATE is in COURSE of FORMATION for the purpose of ERECTING WORKS for the TREATMENT of ORES, and the ELIMINATION of the METALS.

Those in a position to assist in raising the necessary capital may hear of something to their advantage on addressing "Smelter," care of MINING JOURNAL, 26, Fleet street, for full particulars.

THE OWNERS of a SMALL PROMISING NEW COLLIERY in NORTH WALES wish to DISPOSE OF HALF THEIR SHARES to complete improvements. A shaft has just been sunk to an excellent seam of Coal and Fire-clay.

For particulars, apply to JOHN PARRY, Glyn Cottage, Mostyn, near Wrexham; or to J. ELTRINGHAM, 19, New-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

FOR SALE, ONE HUNDRED SHARES in the SOUTH ROSKEAR TIN AND COPPER MINE, which adjoins the celebrated Dolcoath Mine, parish of Camborne, Cornwall. The shares have £12 5s. paid, including the cost of 15s. just made. This is a most favourable opportunity for making a profitable investment.

For further particulars, apply to ROBERT LORIMER, 5, Great Winchester street, London, E.C.

FOR IMMEDIATE CASH—FINE INVESTMENTS AT HALF VALUE.—ON £100 HUNDRED (£5) SHARES in NEW BRONFLOYD MINE (£5 paid, 1m. call to pay). Will accept £2 per share (about). Shares must see £8 in the Spring—have been sold for £8 per share.

Apply, "Delta," MINING JOURNAL Office, 26, Fleet-street, London.

FOR SALE, the "HUSH EISTEDDFOD LEAD MINE," MINERA, near WREXHAM, NORTH WALES, together with ENGINE and other MACHINERY and PLANT, all in good working order.

The mine has been in work till the present, and is situated near the celebrated Minera Mines, and on the same vein. This is a promising investment, only wanting capital to develop it.

For particulars, apply to THOS. H



# BOLTS, NUTS, AND COACH SCREWS.

ARCHER AND HARPER,

PROVIDENCE BOLT AND NUT WORKS, THE GREEN, DARLASTON,

Manufacturers of all kinds of Shipbuilders', Engineers', Coach, Wagon, and Fish Bolts; Coach Screws; Railway Spikes and Broads; Hoop-pressed and Forged Nuts, Washers, &c., &c.

SHIPBUILDERS' AND RAILWAY STORES' CONTRACTORS.

SMITH & FORREST,  
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Price List on application.  
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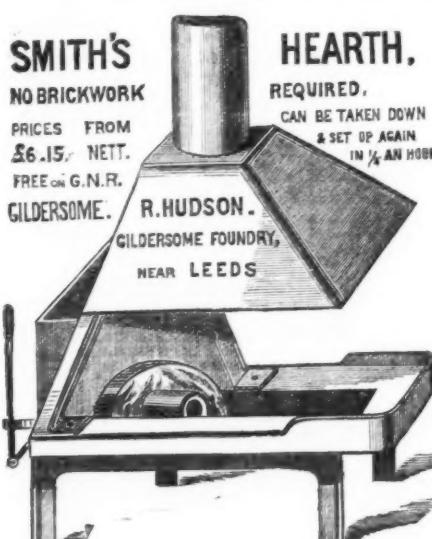
LAMBERT BROTHERS,  
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Boiler Tubes, Hydraulic Tubes,  
Sluice Valves, Hydrants,  
Stop and Draw-off Cocks,  
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Safety Valves, Pumps, &c.

ALEXR. WILSON & CO.,  
VAUXHALL IRONWORKS,  
LONDON, S.W.,  
MANUFACTURERS OF

THE VAUXHALL DONKEY PUMPS.  
THE EXCELSIOR DIRECT-ACTING  
PUMPS.  
HIGH-PRESSURE SCREW ENGINES  
COMPOUND SCREWS ENGINES.  
PATENT SURFACE CONDENSING  
ENGINES.  
PATENT PADDLE ENGINES.  
HOISTING MACHINERY.

ILLUSTRATED AND PRICED CATALOGUES ON APPLICATION.



## FUSIBLE PLUGS.

THE NATIONAL BOILER INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED, 22, ST. ANN'S SQUARE, MANCHESTER, have acquired the PATENT of most important IMPROVEMENTS in DOUBLE CONE FUSIBLE PLUGS.

When fusion occurs a new cone is immediately inserted without removing the manhole cover, and the boiler at once re-started.

The fusible metal is quite protected from deterioration by fire, entire detachment of the inner cone and a large clear opening is secured in case of deficiency of water, and serious injury or explosion of the boiler prevented.

No other Plugs possess such valuable advantages.

For full particulars, apply as above.

Second Edition. Just published, price 8s. 6d.

A NEW GUIDE TO THE IRON TRADE OR, MILL MANAGERS' AND STOCK-TAKERS' ASSISTANT; Comprising a Series of New and Comprehensive Tables, practically arranged to show at one view the Weight of Iron required to produce Boiler plates, Sheet-Iron, and Flat, Square, and Round Bars, as well as Hoop or Strip Iron of any dimensions. To which is added a variety of Tables for the convenience of Merchants, including a Russian Table.

By JAMES ROSE.  
Bateman's Hill Ironworks, Bradley, near Birstall.

## OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

"The Tables are plainly laid down, and the information desired can be instantly neously obtained."—*Mining Journal*.

"900 copies have been ordered in Wigan alone, and this is but a tithe of those to whom the book should command itself."—*Wigan Examiner*.

"The work is replete on the subject of underground management."—*M. BANKS* Colliery Proprietor.

To be had on application at the MINING JOURNAL Office, 28, Fleet-street, London.

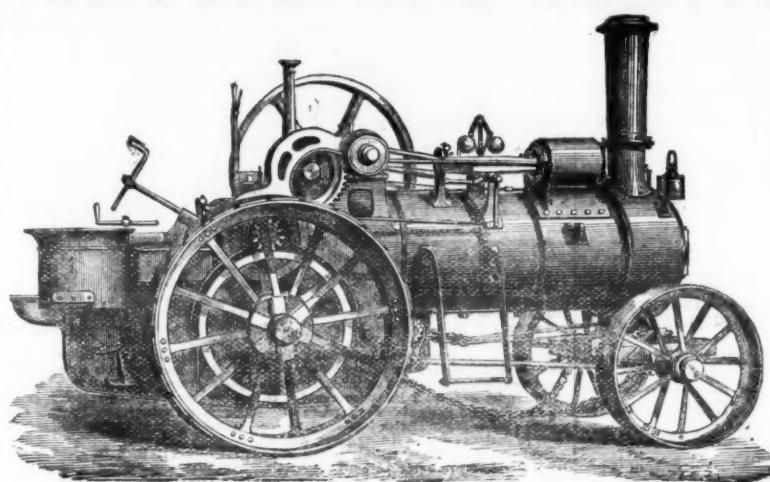
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Portable Engines and  
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WITH OR WITHOUT  
Patent Combined Guard & Fe



TRACTION ENGINES,  
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Can be obtained post free by application to—

**CLAYTON & SHUTTLEWORTH, Lincoln**

78, LOMBARD STREET, LONDON; and 35 and 37, TARLETON STREET, LIVERPOOL.

# STEVENS' PATENT UNDERGROUND WINDING ENGINE

DESIGNED FOR USING COMPRESSED AIR OR STEAM,

SIMPLE, COMPACT, PORTABLE.

Silver Medal, Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society, 1876.

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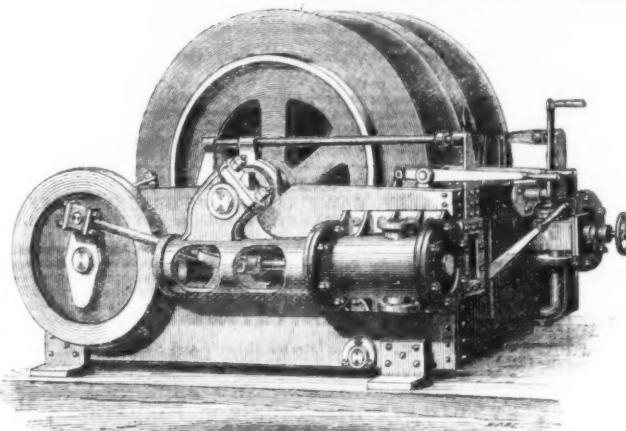
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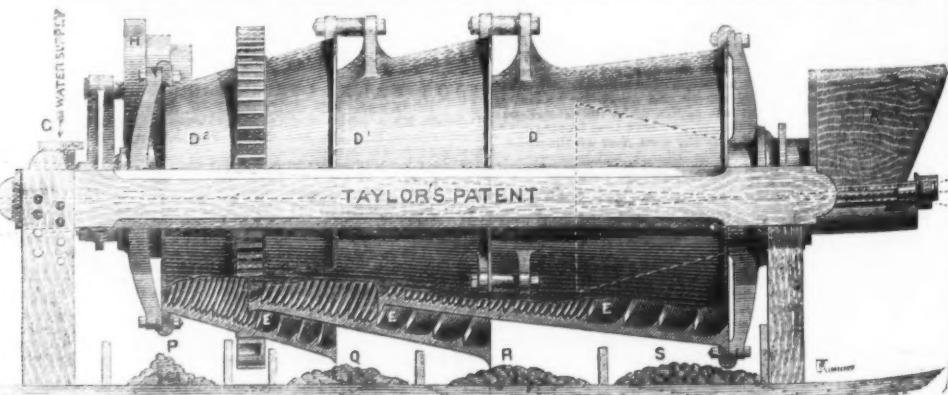
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No. VI. (must be cast in chill) for bolts, &c.	140 "
This alloy has very great tensile strength ...	
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No. XI., special phosphor-bronze bearing metal, wearing five times as long as gun metal .....	112 "

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This Turbine is applicable to all heights of fall. It works immersed in the tail-water, so that no part of the fall is lost, and the motion of the wheel is not affected by floods or back-water.

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## BRITISH DIVIDEND MINES.

Shares.	Mines.	Paid.	Last wk.	Clos. pr.	Total divs.	Per sh.	Lastpd.
1,000 Alderley Edge, c, Cheshire*	10 0 0	-	-	-	12 11 8	0 8 0	Jan. 1876
15,000 Balmynheer, t, Wandron (4000 to ls.)	1 0 0	-	-	-	0 2 0	0 2 0	Nov. 1875
3000 Bamfylde, c, t, ms., Devon*	1 0 0	-	15%	3% 3%	0 2 0	0 2 0	June 1875
4000 Brookwood, c, Buckfastleigh	1 18 0	-	1	3% 1	3 18 0	0 3 0	Do., 1875
2000 Bryn Alyn,* t, Denbigh. (10. sh.)	8 0 0	-	-	-	0 7 0	0 7 0	Jan. 1875
8,000 Cashwell, t, Cumberland*	2 10 0	-	21%	2 2 2%	1 9 6	0 3 0	Aug. 1876
1,000 Carn Brae, c, Illogan*	8 7 6	39	40 42%	308 0 0	1 0 0	0 0 0	Feb. 1874
2,450 Cook's Kitchen, t, Illogan*	23 17 3	-	2	15% 1%	11 17 0	0 7 5	Jan. 1875
10,240 Devon Gt. Consols, c, Tavistock*	1 0 0	-	3%	2 2 3	115 15 0	0 5 0	July 1877
4,298 Dolcoath, c, Camborne	10 14 10	-	37	36 88	111 16 3	0 5 0	Sept. 1877
8,000 East Black Craig, t, Scotland	5 0 0	-	-	-	0 10 0	0 4 0	Do., 1877
300 East Darren, t, Cardiganshire	32 0 0	-	-	-	236 10 0	1 0 0	Aug. 1876
6,100 East Pool, t, e, Illogan	9 9 9	9%	9 9%	15 2 3	2 0 2	0 2 0	June 1877
40,000 Glasgow Cars,* [30,000 £1 p., 10,000 15s. p.]	1M	1 14%	-	0 12 10	0 0 0	0 6	Mar. 1877
7,500 Gorsedd and Merlin Cons., t, Flint 2 10 0	6 14	5% 6%	-	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0	Aug. 1877
18,000 Great Lytffe, t, Monmouth	4 0 0	-	2%	1 14 2	0 2 6	0 2 6	Apr. 1876
15,000 Great Laxey, t, Isle of Man*	4 0 0	-	21	20% 21%	23 13 0	0 10 0	Oct. 1877
615 Gt. Retallack, t, Llanrwst	5 18 6	-	-	-	0 1 6	0 1 6	May 1877
25,000 Gt. West Van, t, Cardigan, * pref.	2 0 0	-	-	-	0 2 0	0 1 0	Aug. 1874
6,400 Green Harth, Durham	0 6 0	-	3	2 24 3	1 15 0	0 3 0	Aug. 1877
26,000 Grogwinion, t, Cardigan*	2 0 0	-	3%	3 14 3%	0 12 0	0 4 0	Feb. 1877
9,820 Gunnislake (Clitters), t, e	5 3 0	-	2%	2 2 3	0 13 9	0 1 0	Oct. 1876
10,244 Herodsfoot, t, near Liskeard*	8 10 0	-	-	-	0 17 6	0 1 6	Jan. 1874
18,000 Hindington Down, c, Calstock*	0 4 0	-	6%	6 6%	62 5 0	0 10 0	Oct. 1872
6,000 Holmbush, a, c, s-l, Callington	1 0 0	-	2	1 14 2	0 3 6	0 3 6	Aug. 1871
2800 Isle of Man, t, Isle of Man*	28 0 0	-	-	-	82 5 0	0 10 0	Feb. 1874
2,000 Leadhills, t, Lanarkshire	6 0 0	-	5%	4 14 5%	0 12 0	0 6 0	Oct. 1877
400 Lludurne, t, Cardiganshire	18 15 0	80	65 70	582 10 0	1 0 0	Jan. 1877	
14,000 Llandidloes,* t, Montgomery	3 0 0	-	2	1 14 2	0 9 0	0 4 6	Nov. 1876
6,120 Lovell, t, Wexford	0 16 0	-	-	-	0 17 6	0 1 6	Jan. 1874
9,000 Marke Valley, c, Linkinhorne	5 3 5	-	3%	5 5 3%	7 15 0	0 2 0	Jan. 1876
9,000 Miners Mining Co., t, Wrexham*	5 0 0	20	16 18	67 8 2	0 3 0	0 3 0	Oct. 1871
20,000 Mining Co. of Ireland, c, l, c, l*	7 0 0	-	-	-	23 11 6	0 3 6	Jan. 1876
444 North Buoy, c, Chacewater	3 9 6	5	4 5	1 10 0	0 1 0	July 1877	
10,859 North Headre, t, Wales	2 1 0	-	-	-	1 12 6	0 2 6	Aug. 1877
6,000 Peden-an-dres Con., t, Redruth	0 8 6	-	7%	6% 7%	0 9 9	0 9 0	June 1877
5,000 Penhalls, t, St. Asaph	3 0 0	-	3%	3 3%	3 18 6	0 2 0	July 1877
6,000 Pennant, t, bar, North Wales*	5 0 0	-	6%	5 5%	0 5 0	0 5 0	Mar. 1877
45,193 Penfrostruth, t, c, Gwennap	9 0 0	-	3%	3 4%	0 2 8	0 8	Nov. 1875
12,000 Phoenix, & W. Phenix, t, c, Link,*	5 7 3	5	4 5	2 9 6	0 4 0	4 0	Nov. 1872
18,000 Prince Gravel, t, Holywell	1 0 0	-	2%	1 14 2	0 14 0	0 1 3	Jan. 1876
12,000 Roman Graves, t, Salop*	7 10 0	-	8%	7 8 8%	7 10 8	0 8 6	May 1877
512 South Cadon, c, St. Cleer	1 5 0	-	100	90 100	739 10 0	1 0 0	Oct. 1877
6,123 South Condurrow, t, c, Camborne*	6 8 6	8%	8% 9%	2 18 0	0 6 0	6 0	Sept. 1877
12,000 St. Harmon,* t, Montgomery	3 0 0	-	2%	2 2 3	0 3 0	0 3 0	Jan. 1877
1,000 So. Fr. Patrick, t, (8,000 sh. issued)	1 0 0	-	-	-	0 7 0	0 1 0	Aug. 1875
1,000 Tawkerville, t, Salop	6 0 0	-	5%	4 7 5%	4 17 0	0 5 0	Dec. 1875
3,000 Tincroft, c, Pool, Illogan*	9 0 0	-	16	15 16	50 8 6	0 5 0	May 1877
15,000 Van, t, Llandidloes*	4 8 0	-	32	32 84	22 8 6	0 12 0	Oct. 1877
3,300 W. Chiverton, t, Perranzabuloe*	12 10 0	-	16	13 14 14%	55 0	0 10 0	Oct. 1877
1,783 West Poldice, St. Day	10 0 0	-	13	11 18	1 19 0	0 4 0	July 1876
612 West Tolgus, c, Redruth	68 10 0	-	77	73 75 xd	23 15 0	1 10 0	Oct. 1877
2048 West Wheal Frances, t, Illogan	28 1 3	-	4%	3 4%	3 12 6	0 5 0	Aug. 1872
12,000 West Wheal YeValley, t, Montgomery	3 0 0	-	3	3 3%	0 6 0	0 3 0	Nov. 1876
1024 Wh. Eliza Consols, t, St. Austell	18 0 0	-	-	-	15 10 0	1 10 0	Oct. 1877
3042 Wheal Jane, t, Kew	2 13 10	-	15%	13% 15%	8 5 0	0 5 0	July 1874
4295 Wheal Kitty, t, St. Agnes	5 4 5	-	2%	1 14 2	11 19 6	0 2 6	Dec. 1874
25,000 Wh. Newton, c, s, t, Calstock*	1 0 0	-	5%	4 8	0 4 0	0 4 0	June 1877
89 Wheal Owles, t, St. Just	28 5 0	-	80	65 70	522 10 0	4 0 0	Aug. 1872
8,000 Wheal Prussia, t, Redruth	2 0 0	-	4%	4 6 4%	0 4 0	0 1 0	July 1877
25,000 Wicklow, c, s-l, Wicklow	3 10 0	-	3	2 2 3	52 9 0	0 2 4	Mar. 1872
10,000 Wye Valley, t, Montgomery*	3 0 0	-	3	2 2 3 8%	0 10 6	0 4 6	Oct. 1876
3,000 Last Chance, t, Utah	5 0 0	-	1	3 1	0 14 0	0 2 0	July 1873
16,000 Linares, t, Spain*	3 0 0	-	5%	5% 6%	17 3 10	0 6 0	Oct. 1877
66,000 London and California, g*	2 0 0	-	1%	1 14 2	0 1 0	0 1 0	July 1875
787 Lutitanian, Portugal* (25 sh.)	3 10 0	-	-	-	1 11 6	0 1 6	Mar. 1877
8,000 Mamra Copperopolis of Utah, t, s	10 0 0	-	-	-	0 8 0	0 5 0	Dec. 1872
5,000 Mountain Chief, t, Utah	10 0 0	-	-	-	0 4 0	0 4 0	Jan. 1873
10,000 Pontiglais, t, France	20 0 0	-	28	26 28	23 1 11 1	1 11 0	Nov. 1877
10,000 Port Phillip, t, Clunes*	1 0 0	-	5%	5 3 3%	1 9 0	0 1 0	Sept. 1877
5,400 Richmond Consols, c, Nevada*	5 0 0	-	6%	6% 7%	3 9 0	0 7 6	Oct. 1876
40,000 Santa Barbara, g, Brazil	0 10 0	-	2	1 14 2	3 0 9	0 1 0	Mar. 1877
20,000 Scottish Australian Min. Co.*	1 0 0	-	2%	1 14 2	3 15 9	0 1 0	Mar. 1877
8,000 Scottish Austral. Mining Co., New	0 5 0	-	2%	1 14 2	14 10 0	0 8 0	Oct. 1877
35,000 Cessna Sulf., Romanga, Italy*	10 0 0	-	-	-	0 10 6	0 3 0	Aug. 1876
15,000 Chicago, t, USA	10 0 0	-	1%	1 14 2	2 8 0	0 4 0	Nov. 1876
16,000 Colorado United, s-l, Colorado*	8 0 0	-	2	1 14 2	0 13 6	0 4 0	Jan. 1877
10,000 Copiapo, c, Chile* (22 shares)	16 15 0	-	-	-	7 11 5	0 3 0	May 1877
10,000 Don Pedro North del Rey*	0 16 0	-	3%	3 3%	2 3 0	0 2 0	Mar. 1877
23,500 Eberhardt & Aurora, t, Nevada*	10 0 0	-	5	4 5 8	1 8 0	0 3 0	Dec. 1876
70,000 English & Australian, c, S. Aust.	3 10 0	-	15%	14 14	3 15 9	0 1 0	Mar. 1877
8,000 Flagstaff, t, Utah	10 0 0	-	2%	2 2 3	4 3 0	0 5 0	July 1873
25,000 Fortuna, t, Spain*	2 0 0	-	5%	5 5 5%	8 10 0	0 8 0	Oct. 1877
8,000 Frontino & Bolivia, c, New Gran*	2 0 0	-	3%	2 2 3	0 1 0	0 1 0	June 1876
8,000 Gold Run, Ayd.	1 0 0	-	-	-	0 2 4	0 0 0	Oct. 1872
68,000 Kapunda Mining Co. Australia*	1 3 0 0	-	-	-	0 2 4	0 0 0	June 1873
20,000 Last Chance, t, Utah	5 0 0	-	1	3 1	0 14 0	0 2 0	July 1873
16,000 Linares, t, Spain	3 0 0	-	6%	6% 8%	17 3 10	0 6 0	Oct. 1877
66,000 London and California, g*	2 0 0	-	1%	1 14 2	0 1 0	0 1 0	July 1875
787 Lutitanian, Portugal* (25 sh.)	3 10 0	-	-	-	1 11 6	0 1 6	Mar. 1877
8,000 Mamra Copperopolis of Utah, t, s	10 0 0	-	-	-	0 8 0	0 5 0	Dec. 1872
5,000 Mountain Chief, t, Utah	10 0 0	-	-	-	0 4 0	0 4 0	Jan. 1873
10,000 Pontiglais, t, France	20 0 0	-	28	26 28	23 1 11 1	1 11 0	Nov. 1877
5,400 Richmond							